

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 9, 2016

North & West edition No 733



CRIME

EastEnders actress murderer jailed for life

Sentencing for man who killed partner and two young children

HEALTH

Academic's fears over e-cigarettes

Fresh concerns as thousands try to quit for Stoptober

PUNISHMENT

Special report on our prisons

Plans to tackle drug abuse and rehabilitation into society

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Should we simply turn our back on offenders?

JUST what we should do, as a society, for those who commit crimes is something which divides opinion more sharply than asking who you prefer between Jeremy Corbyn and Nigel Farage.

On one side there are those who believe jail should be nothing but a place of punishment. Others that it fails our communities if it does not rehabilitate those who spend time there.

But it is our approach to offenders when they emerge from their cells and back into 'real life' that is perhaps most fascinating.

Any employer, even the most liberal, would think twice about employing someone who has to admit to previous wrong-doing - just for the fear of any repeat. Yet for everyone to take that approach will surely result in a self-fulfilling prophecy.

After all, if we take an approach that having served their time they



Editor **Chris Britcher**

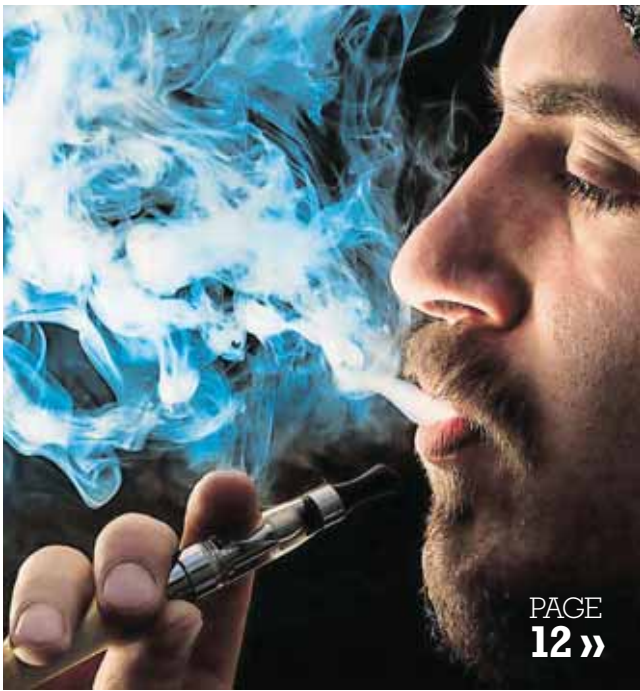
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cannot be trusted to integrate back into society or even be given the chance to prove themselves, then the very real option for the individual is surely going to be the view that society has turned its back on them.

And faced with that option, a return to criminal activity once again becomes a viable alternative. Particularly if their time inside was not spent trying to resolve the issues which led to them being sentenced to jail in the first place but simply designed to punish them. Which, in itself, could create a level of resentment to authority.

There has, as a result, got to be a balance struck.

Having your liberty denied to you is, after all, surely an horrific punishment in itself. With that established, surely providing assistance to ensure they never repeat the experience is in society's best long-term interest?



PAGE 12 »



PAGE 19 »



PAGE 26 »



PAGE 14 »



PAGE 06 »



PAGE 07 »

Contents

News

- 05 **Dreamland's £1m offer**
Daring bid to regain land of theme park
- 06 **Actress killer gets life term**
Judge gives him full life sentence
- 07 **Look who is back again...**
Nigel Farage is back in charge of Ukip as tempers boil over
- 11 **Manston gets major blow**
Latest report says it would be 'unviable'

- 12 **E-cigs: Are they safe?**
Academic's concern over vaping craze
- 14 **College on a survival mission**
We speak to principal Graham Razey
- 19 **Tackling jail problems**
Special report on drugs inside and jobs on the outside
- 22 **Festival fans By the Sea**
Pulp's Jarvis Cocker among the big names



PAGE 22 »

- 25 **Bad Blood film reaction**
Contamination victim on latest documentary
- 26 **Win! Leeds Castle tickets**
Family passes to its Halloween fun days
- The Arts**
- 32 **Panto time at Orchard**
We meet the stars of Snow White
- Plus**
- Letters**..... Page 40
- Images of Kent**..... Page 41
- Sport**..... Page 47
- Appointments**..... Page 00

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Housing at Dreamland? Ex-owners submit offer

Exclusive: By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THE former owners of the Dreamland site have submitted an offer to Thanet District Council to reacquire the land, saying they intend to launch ambitious development plans, which would include housing.

Speaking exclusively to KoS this week, Margate Town Centre Regeneration Company (MTCRC) said it has offered the authority a settlement to bring an ongoing court battle to a conclusion.

The council acquired the site from MTCRC through a compulsory purchase order (CPO) in September 2014, with the former owners receiving approximately £750,000 for the site, plus £400,000 of fees and £100,000 statutory compensation.

However, bosses claim they are still owed £15m-plus from TDC, with whom they have been locked in a legal battle to secure further payment for more than 12 months. TDC's assessment of the value of the land is "significantly lower" than that suggested by the former owners.

Now though, MTCRC has offered



BATTLE: An out-of-court settlement to reacquire the site has been offered to Thanet District Council

to draw a line under the row by submitting an offer to the council, whereby it would take back ownership of the site, plus a fee of £1m to cover costs.

And spokesperson Toby Hunter also outlined the company's intention to develop gardens, open space and housing on the site.

"We hope the local authority will see some value in that offer and if they do, hopefully there will be some positive discussions," he said

"We would get the Scenic

Railway running, and provide amazing gardens, open area events, pop-up markets and housing.

"This is a comprehensive scheme with what we believe to be a UK-class, if not world-class open space, and housing that is not just flats but appropriate for housing.

"If we go to compensation through the courts it could be a disaster for Thanet, so if there is an agreement to deal with the land in some other way, I think it's

particularly important for Chris Wells to appear to take the disastrous Labour situation he inherited and clean it up."

Ukip leader Cllr Wells told us: "Something has come in from MTCRC, but generally speaking we are dealing with them through the courts and it would be wrong of me to speak about any kind of offer."

Kent Test results due this week, as Medway fails to get sums right

PARENTS and pupils across Kent will learn the results of the Kent Test this week – and if their child has been judged suitable for a grammar school.

Those who registered online for the test will receive the results, via email, after 4pm on Thursday. Others will receive a letter on Friday.

However, it will be hoped the results will not be as shambolic as in Medway, where parents received scores that didn't appear to add up properly.

The required pass score this year was 513 across three tests in verbal reasoning, mathematics and extended writing.

However, for many students, their overall score did not match the total of the individual scores listed, leaving many parents sweating over whether their children had succeeded.

Medway Council has since apologised for the confusion but the authority was blasted by one education expert.

A spokesperson for the unitary authority said: "The total score and

assessment outcomes published in Medway Test result letters is correct for all candidates, despite a publication error which led to the wrong extended writing score being printed in the letters to non selective pupils.

"We have thoroughly rechecked the results and have re-issued result letters with the correct figures to all families affected. This will not change the total score or the assessment outcome for pupils.

"We are sorry for the concern and confusion this may have caused parents at what is a very important time in their child's education."

Education consultant Peter Read, who runs the www.kentadvice.co.uk website, said: "Once again I am appalled by another Medway Council failure to serve its council taxpayers. Surely such gross carelessness would be unacceptable in any reputable business although, as so often before, it will presumably simply be glossed over with 'we have learned lessons' when they haven't."

Two charged with murder after Westwood Cross death

TWO men appeared before magistrates on Friday charged with murder following the death of a 20-year-old man near the Westwood Cross shopping centre earlier this week.

The body of Carl Gregory was found in the car park of the Cross Retail Park after police were called shortly after 10pm on Tuesday.

Ambulance crews rushed to his

aid, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police arrested two men shortly after and both were charged.

John Dickson, 27, of Northdown Road in Cliftonville, Margate, and Christopher Pollard, 20, of Brimstone Hill in Meopham, both appeared before Medway magistrates via video link on Friday afternoon.

Motorists warned over M20 closures for bridge repairs

A SECTION of the M20 will be closed this weekend as part of plans to widen the eastern side of the bridge at Leybourne.

The southbound road will be reduced to one lane from 3pm on Saturday, where a full closure will be put in place from 8pm and re-opened at 3am.

The A228 northbound from West Malling to Snodland and the

Medway Towns will remain open at all times and there will be two separate diversions for traffic using the A228 southbound from Snodland to West Malling.

Work will continue on the project throughout October and November and once new traffic signals and finishing works have been completed, it is expected to be ready before Christmas.



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Schools place ban on 'bottle flip' phenomenon

A GROWING number of schools across the county are banning what has become known as bottle flipping.

Pupils, fuelled by online clips, are flipping partially filled plastic bottles to land in precarious positions.

However, Alan Brookes, head teacher of Fulston Manor School on Brenchley Road, this week took the decision to ban bottles altogether, believing they were

proving too much of a distraction to pupils. And other schools have since followed suit.

In a letter to parents on Tuesday, he insisted pupils can still drink in house areas before school, at break-time, at lunchtime and after school, as well as in PE and Games lessons, ensuring that there is no prospect of them becoming dehydrated.



CONTESTANT: JD O'Brien

Our candidate survives first Apprentice test

A SEVENOAKS businessman managed to avoid becoming the first victim of Alan Sugar's boardroom on Thursday night, as the BBC's popular *The Apprentice* returned to our screens.

JD O'Brien, 37, who owns a beachwear company in London and recently moved to Kent, is one of 18 initial candidates hoping to be in with a chance of securing a £250,000 partnership with Lord Sugar.

In his audition tape, Mr O'Brien describes himself as "fun, outgoing, passionate, driven, ambitious and ready to go".

Asked which historical figure he would compare himself with, he picked Scottish knight William Wallace, claiming he was "hard as nails, passionate and men followed him".

Mr O'Brien also said his distinctive gravelly voice, which he's had since childhood, gets him noticed.

"For as long as I can remember I've always been the kid with the weird voice," he said. "What excites me about business is making money, being successful, and getting the plaudits from your peers."

"I have a never-say-die attitude, I keep going until the end and I won't sit down until I've achieved everything I need to achieve in life."

Life sentence for killer who buried EastEnders star and kids in garden

By Luke May

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THE partner of murdered *EastEnders* actress Sian Blake has been told he will spend the rest of his life behind bars for murdering her and their two children.

Arthur Simpson-Kent buried Ms Blake, 43, and their sons Zachary, eight, and four-year-old Amon in the garden of their Erith home.

All three were hit on the head before being stabbed in the neck or throat by Simpson-Kent.

He then fled to Ghana, where he was later extradited back to the UK.

Ms Blake, who was terminally ill with motor neurone disease, planned to leave the hairdresser and take the boy with her.

She was reported missing in December last year, and police had interviewed Simpson-Kent.

In January, murder officers were brought in and the bodies of the victims were discovered.

Police have referred their han-



JAILED: Arthur Simpson-Kent

dling of the missing persons case to the Independent Police Complaints Commission over perceived failings in their investigations.

Mr Justice Singh, sentencing Simpson-Kent at the Old Bailey on

Wednesday, ordered that the 49-year-old should serve a "whole life" prison term for his barbaric crimes on the night of December 14/15.

The court had previously heard that Ms Blake's condition meant she would have been physically incapable of defending herself from a violent attack.

The NSPCC referred the family to the police after receiving a complaint.

A spokesperson said: "Simpson-Kent is now behind bars for this heinous crime which not only robbed Sian's family of a daughter and a sister, but also of any dreams, hopes and aspirations they had for her two young sons who had their whole lives ahead of them."

"There were clearly concerns Sian and her sons were at risk of violence from Simpson-Kent and the NSPCC's helpline received a call from a member of the public worried about their safety. It's right Met Police has asked the IPCC to examine how they handled the investigation."

Talks derail so more train strikes this week

SOUTHERN Railway passengers are facing fresh travel chaos after talks aimed at resolving a bitter row over the role of conductors collapsed.

Talks between the company and RMT union officials broke down on Thursday, ushering in 14 days of strikes, starting with a three-day walkout from this Tuesday.

Southern operate services between Tonbridge and Redhill and Ashford to the south coast.

Both sides continued to blame each other for the dispute.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: "There was a real chance of getting a negotiated solution on track but Southern have not only slammed the door on that but they have also rejected RMT's offer to draft in Acas immediately to try and close the gap and broker a settlement. That is scandalous."

Southern's owners, Govia Thameslink, said it was "deeply disappointed" a final offer to resolve the dispute had been rejected.

Jail for decade-long sex abuse of boy

A 41-year-old from Sheerness has been jailed for six years for sexually abusing a young boy throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Brian Batson, of Southview Gardens, was a child himself when the offences began but continued to commit crimes against his victim after entering adulthood.

The offences committed by Batson began in the mid-1980s when his victim was aged just four, and ended a decade later.

He was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court this week having been convicted of two counts of indecent assault, one count of gross indecency and two other serious sexual offences.

Det Sgt Theresa Caughran said: "The crimes committed were truly horrendous and his victim displayed tremendous courage in coming forward and reporting them to police. I hope his brave actions give other victims of historic sexual abuse the confidence to speak up, knowing we will take them seriously and thoroughly investigate any allegations."

Stickers left as cars on pavement keyed

A PROBE is under way after a number of cars parked on the pavement were keyed and stickers put on them in a sleepy seaside town.

The vehicles were all parked in Baddlesmere Road in Tankerton, near Whitstable, last Saturday night (October 1).

All were parked on the pavement and hand-made red and white sticker with the words Pavement for People were left on two of them.

Officers have so far received five reports relating to six vehicles - a Vauxhall Tiguan, a VW Scirocco, a VW Passat, a Ford Transit van, a Ford Focus and a Renault Modus - but they fear more vehicles may have been targeted.

PC Colette Todd said: "It appears that someone has taken umbrage to people parking on the pavement."

"While we would always urge people not to park inconsiderately we would also point out that taking the law into your own hands is not acceptable."

"Damaging someone's car is a criminal offence that potentially carries a prison sentence."

Jury hears of fake suicide note planted on Gravesend victim

By Emily Pennink

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ALLEGED serial killer Stephen Port planted a suicide note on Gravesend's Daniel Whitlock in a "wicked attempt" to frame him for the death of another, a court has heard.

Over a period of 15 months, Port, 41, surreptitiously plied four young gay men he had met online with fatal doses of date rape drug GHB so he could have sex with them while they were unconscious, jurors at the Old Bailey heard.

The chef and former male escort allegedly dragged their bodies out of his flat in Bark-ing, east London, and dumped them in or near a graveyard as he tried to cover up what he had done.

Port was jailed for eight months for per-verting the course of justice by lying to police about the circumstances of the death of his first alleged victim, 23-year-old fashion stu-dent Anthony Walgate.

In an "extraordinary" twist of fate, Port's second and third alleged victims were found by the same dog walker in a churchyard 400 metres from where he lived, the court heard.

Slovakian Gabriel Kovari, 22, who had been living with Port, was found dead from a drugs overdose on August 28, 2014. Then on September 20, 2014, the body of Daniel



ACCUSED: Court sketch of Stephen Port during Old Bailey trial

Whitworth, 21, was uncovered near the same spot clutching an apparent suicide note.

Prosecutor Jonathan Rees QC told jurors Port had made a "wicked attempt" to frame Mr Whitworth for the death of Mr Kovari.

The fake suicide note read: "I am sorry to everyone, mainly my family, but I can't go on any more. I tried everything to get him to breathe again but it was too late."

Mr Rees told jurors the note was written to give the impression Mr Whitworth had taken an overdose because he

blamed himself for Mr Kovari's death.

At the time, police accepted the apparent suicide note on face value and did not investigate further, he said. Mr Rees said the note turned out to be "a sham" as hand-writing experts found it had been written by Port and not Mr Whitworth.

Port denies 29 offences against a total of 12 men, including four murders, seven rapes, four sex assaults and administering a substance with intent.

The case continues.

Thief uses fishing rod to hook a stolen car

A CRAFTY crook used a fishing rod to land car keys left inside a property through a letterbox - then used them to pinch a car parked outside.

The crime took place between 3.30pm and 6.30pm in Pilgrims Way West, in Otford, on Sunday, October 2.

Now police are reminding people to pay extra attention to where they leave their keys and to ensure both their home and vehicles are secure.

Rescue mission after man stuck in mud

EMERGENCY teams had to rush to the aid of a man who got stuck in the mud in a creek in Faversham on Tuesday morning.

Crews had to lay down stretchers to release the man who was freed after a 30-minute rescue mission. He was treated at the scene in Front Brents by paramedics.

Star films back home

GRAVESEND's own Bond girl, Gemma Arterton, is back in the county this week as filming kicks off on her latest movie.

The 30-year-old, who went to Gravesend Gram-mar School for Girls, posted photos on Instagram of her return to Kent for work on The Escape, in which she stars with Mamma Mia's Dominic Cooper.

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Farage back again as Ukip punches itself into spotlight

NIGEL Farage returned for his fourth stint as leader of Ukip this weekend - and immediately found himself having to cope with two of his MEPs becoming embroiled in a fist fight.

South east MEP Mr Farage, from Westerham, was installed as interim leader of the party after the shock resignation of Diane James. She had been elected just 18 days earlier.

Mr Farage said: "I have spoken to the Electoral Commission and I am technically still leader of the party as Diane James's forms did not get processed, so I will continue as the interim leader."

However, he then had to break the news that Steven Woolfe, the bookmakers' favourite to now emerge as leader, had ended up in hospital after being hit following an



altercation at a meeting of Ukip MEPs at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Mr Farage, who failed to be elected to Westminster when he stood as Ukip candidate in South

Thanet last year, insisted he had no intention of remaining as permanent leader "not for 10 million dollars".

He had stepped down following the referendum victory.

Momentum vice chair loses role over comments

CONTROVERSIAL Labour figure Jackie Walker has been removed from her post as vice-chair of the left-wing Momentum group following remarks made about anti-Semitism at a training event.

Leaked footage showed the Broadstairs-based pro-Jeremy Corbyn activist saying she had not found a definition of anti-Semitism she could work with.

It also showed her questioning why Holocaust Memorial Day was not more wide-ranging to include other genocides.

She was suspended from the Labour Party last week over the comments.

Momentum said it did not regard her comments as individually anti-Semitic but raised concerns about her

"irresponsible" behaviour, and she was removed as vice chair by a vote of seven to three.

She remains a member of Momentum and its steering committee.

In a statement, the group said: "The committee does not regard any of the comments she appears to have made, taken individually, to be anti-Semitic."

"However, the committee does consider her remarks on Holocaust Memorial Day and on security of Jewish schools to be ill-informed, ill-judged and offensive."

"In such circumstances, the committee feels that Jackie should have done more to explain herself to mitigate the upset caused and should have been careful about statements on this and related subjects."

Porridge for star Kevin

ORPINGTON's Kevin Bishop is to step into the shoes of Ronnie Barker again after the BBC commissioned a full series of a remake of classic comedy Porridge.

Earlier this year, a one-off special saw Kevin Bishop play Norman Stanley Fletcher as he adjust to life behind bars.

De Bradelei Wharf shuts

DOVER's De Bradelei Wharf outlet shopping centre dramatically closed down on Tuesday night - with staff hearing just hours before it was publicly confirmed.

A statement from its parent company said: "The company has ceased trading with effect from 5.30pm Tuesday, October 4."

Fire's £150k vehicle hunt

KENT Fire and Rescue Service is set to spend up to £150,000 as it hunts for "redundant vehicles" to take part in a training exercise.

It has a contract out to tender for vehicles it can use for crash response training and community safety demonstrations.

Mental health festival

A MENTAL health festival to promote help and support available across the county is being held at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on Tuesday.

Running between 11am and 4pm it is follows Monday's World Mental Health Day - an annual awareness event.

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Top Three Stories



1. Carl Gregory tributes

Family's tribute after car park 'murder'

2. Romney Marsh blaze

Firefighters arrive at military firing range

3. Appeal after assaults

Sexual assaults reported in Wainscott

The Essential Guide:



...to Manston Airport

Everything you need to know about plans to get planes flying again in Thanet



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Thousands of music fans flocked to Margate's Dreamland last weekend to watch the By The Sea festival return. If you missed the photo gallery online, then turn inside this edition for more pictures of the event which organisers hailed a great success

Missed last week's...?

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Top Three Blogs



1. Raise a glass to real ale

We should celebrate our brewing industry

2. Are grammars worth it?

Debating Theresa May's controversial plans

3. It's time to step back

Tales of gambling highs and lows

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Do prisoners receive enough rehabilitation?

- 1 Yes, they do - 18%
- 2 No, more help needed - 64%
- 3 They are there to be punished - 9%
- 4 Don't know - 9%

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CONTROVERSY: Craig Mackinlay described a report commissioned by Thanet District Council into aviation viability as “bogus” and has since faced calls to resign as South Thanet MP

Mackinlay urged to ‘consider his position’ as airport row heats up

Fallout from a report into viability of aviation at Manston has been intense, as **Tom Pyman** reports...

THE row over Manston has taken yet another turn this week as Craig Mackinlay has been urged to resign from his post as South Thanet MP if a plan to restore the site as an airport is rejected.

It comes after a report commissioned by the district council concluded that airport operations at the site were “very unlikely to be financially viable”.

The report, compiled by aviation experts Avia was slammed by Mr Mackinlay, as well as American investment firm RiverOak and campaign group Save Manston Airport Association, with the MP describing it as “bogus”.

He claimed it was “custom built to provide excuses for Chris Wells’ broken promises” after many interpreted the council’s Ukip leader’s comments prior to election last year as a pledge to get planes flying again at Manston. Mr Mackinlay also urged Cllr Wells to step down, but the leader has stood firm against the criticism.

Now, however, Mr Mackinlay himself has been challenged to follow a pledge made by fellow Conservative MP for Thanet, Sir Roger Gale, who admitted he would retire if RiverOak’s plans didn’t stand up to scrutiny and aviation use at the site was rejected.

Ray Mallon is a spokesperson for Stone Hill Park, the site’s current owners, who intend to develop a mixed-use facility on the land including 2,500 homes, jobs and leisure facilities.

He told KoS: “I have been surprised by recent comments by MPs, particu-

larly Craig Mackinlay who said this report was ‘bogus’ which essentially means ‘dodgy’ or ‘dishonest’, but then admitted he hadn’t even read the report.

“Sir Roger said he would stand down and I think he should pack his bags because RiverOak will be found wanting, and I think Mr Mackinlay should do the same thing.

“Sir Roger had acted honourably and nailed his colours to the mast and Mr Mackinlay should follow suit because his comments were outrageous.

“I’m sure Avia will be consulting their lawyers over these slanderous comments – Mr Mackinlay is up to his neck in this and should seriously consider his position.

“He should apologise to Avia because there’s a right and a wrong way of doing things and these people should be more measured and reasonable in their comments.”

Mr Mackinlay was contacted for comment and a source close to the MP told us “we’re going nowhere”.

Cllr Wells who admitted he was “disappointed” to read the conclusions of the report, said he fully expected a backlash and that local perceptions of his party may change as a result.

However, he denied a specific pre-election promise to get planes flying again, insisted he would not back down and respected the validity of the report in ensuring the council’s finances did not spiral further out of control.

Cllr Wells told KoS: “The one thing my party is perceived in this area for

“ Sir Roger has acted honourably and nailed his colours to the mast and Craig Mackinlay should follow suit because his comments were outrageous... ”

Ray Mallon,
Stone Hill Park spokesperson

doing – whether others like it or not – is actually tackling some of those things everyone else has run away from for so long.

“That is why Thanet has been in a mess and some of those things were never going to be easy to deal with.

“But we’ve dealt with £14.2m of debt, we’re dealing with this and we’ve done absolutely everything any human being could expect us to do to see it through except follow fantasy rather than fact.

“That’s what’s got this council in trouble in the past, that’s what I won’t do again.”

He added: “I can only deal in fact, people have to accept that if there’s factual evidence that says something different to what they would believe or like to see, then that’s something they have to face up to, as I do.

“I’ll be talking to anybody who wants to discuss this whether they’re in my party or other parties, whether

they’re residents or campaigners, but the guys who wrote this report know what they’re talking about.

“One of them is a former Virgin freight manager – they know this marketplace, they know what’s possible and what isn’t.

“What certainly isn’t possible is seeing Manston go from taking one per cent of the freight market to a third of that market internationally in and out of the UK in order to justify the number of flights RiverOak need for a Development Consent Order.

“That is a flight of fantasy, all of us have to understand that’s not going to work.”

While Cllr Wells refused to rule out the use of any kind of aviation on the site, the prospect of sole aviation use was dismissed to the extent it will not feature in the council’s Local Plan up to 2031, which is expected to go to public consultation early next year.

Avia Solutions cited the location of the airport as the primary reason it has concerns, claiming “not even a 300mph train link” would make it financially viable.

It said the best case scenario for Manston would be one where no new runways are built in the south east until 2050, and even then, an investor would not see financial rewards until 2025, before estimated re-financings of £20m would be required in both 2028 and 2029 to fund terminal expansion.

American investment firm RiverOak, which aims to use the airport as a cargo hub, felt Avia Solutions had not provided enough evidence.

A spokesperson said: “RiverOak Investments will be continuing to develop its exciting plans for Manston Airport given that Avia Solutions “does not offer any opinion about the reasonableness or otherwise of RiverOak’s commercial plans for the airport” making their report irrelevant.

“The report is also extremely thin when it comes to evidence on freight demand.

“The only ‘forecast’ they rely on is in fact a statement of freight volumes from 2000 to 2012, when it is widely accepted that there is a considerable and growing level of unsatisfied demand.

“We recommend that Thanet council waits to see the evidence that forms part of our application before reaching any conclusions on the viability of Manston Airport as a cargo hub.”

Dr Beau Webber, of the campaign group Save Manston Airport Association, also slammed the findings, saying: “The crucial and main flaws in the Avia report are that it assumes that Manston Airport will be reopened at about the same level as it was when it closed, that no more than £50m will be invested, and that the main business will be passenger flights.

“When RiverOak are successful in convincing the national planning inspectors that their plans are viable and that this is a nationally significant airport, then the Thanet council draft local plan becomes an irrelevance as far as Manston is concerned, along with this Avia report.”

'Don't assume vaping is safe' warns professor

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

A TOP academic has questioned the massive rise in the use of e-cigarettes and the encouragement of them as alternatives to traditional tobacco products.

It comes as thousands look to stub out the harmful habit as part of the annual Stoptober drive to quit.

Recent statistics demonstrated around 17 per cent of the county still smoke – a figure which is in continual decline. Many ex-smokers are turning to electronic devices which still contain nicotine, but the smoke is water vapour and thus less damaging. Smoking of such devices is commonly known as vaping.

But Janet Kraska, professor of clinical and professional practice at the Medway School of Pharmacy – a joint collaboration between the University of Kent and University of Greenwich – says a perception they are a safe alternative, is misguided.

She explained to KoS: "Other chemicals in e-cigarettes could be

“ Nicotine has bad effects on the nervous system, and although it a healthier alternative, vaping is not good ”

Professor Janet Kraska,
Medway School of Pharmacy

harmful in different ways. We don't know what the long term health issues of vaping are."

E-cigarettes are used as an alternative to smoking because they contain nicotine, however, e-cigarettes also contain propylene glycol – an organic compound which is odorless but has a sweet taste, vegetable glycerin – which is produced from palm oil, soy, or coconut oil, and flavourings.

Adds Professor Kraska: "Nicotine has bad effects on the nervous system, and although it is a healthier alternative to smoking, vaping is still not good. Though it could cut down the withdrawal symptoms of smoking such as cravings, stress, irritability, and sleeping difficulty because it still contains the element (nicotine) that gives you those symptoms, the jury's out on vaping."

However, opinion remains split on the evidence, with some studies proving the lack of the chemicals commonly included in cigarettes means vaping is far less damaging.

But the issue is that there has yet to be any definitive research to prove or disprove the claims.

Director of Mad Cow Vaping in Rainham, Ben Edwards, who claims that vaping is "massively on the increase" contradicts Professor Kraska,



POPULAR: There has been a big increase in e-cigarette use, but still no proof it is a relatively harmless pursuit

saying: "A majority of people can't quit smoking cold turkey. E-cigarettes are not as bad or as harmful as smoking because they don't leave you with the tar build-up in your lungs. We need to ask her where she's getting her opinion from."

Since the smoking ban was introduced in 2007, the social acceptance of smoking has declined rapidly and thus brought down the numbers still hooked to the habit.

With a box of 20 cigarettes now nudging £10 and the confirmed damage to your health, health organisations are keen to drag that figure down further – motivated in part, at least, in easing the strain of treating a whole host of conditions caused by the addiction.

Stoptober encourages smokers to quit the habit for good, claiming if you 'quit for 28 days, you'll quit forever'. On its website it encourages the use of e-cigarettes as an alternative.

Kent County Council is backing the campaign.

"We are encouraging our 200,600 smokers to take part in this year's Stoptober campaign and take advantage of the quit kits and other resources and services available locally – we're aiming for a smokefree Kent," says Andrew Scott-Clark, KCC director for public health.

Last year, 20 per cent of the 2.5 million smokers nationally who made the attempt to quit, did. This rate is up from the 13.6 per cent of people who managed to quit six years ago.

Dr Gina Radford, deputy chief medical officer, said "While we know that quitting smoking is not easy, this Stoptober is a perfect time to try again. The best thing a smoker can do for their health is to stop smoking."

The health benefits of quitting smoking present themselves quickly, and withdrawal symptoms shouldn't

last for an extended period of time.

Explains Professor Kraska: "When you smoke tar builds up in your lungs and stays there, it doesn't go away. Your cells have ways of fighting infection but smokers' tar build-up stops this and means smokers are more likely to get chest infections, which in turn become harder to treat."

"When you quit smoking altogether you will feel a difference quickly. Your lung capacity and energy levels will increase within two to three weeks. Quitting will also reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease which causes heart attacks and strokes. The withdrawal symptoms should ease up within a couple of weeks."

There is something of an established industry around stopping smoking, with a host of options to choose from.

One is the often controversial tactic of hypnotherapy.

"Hypnotherapy is often used to help clients achieve the behavioural change needed to stop smoking," says Kent Tait from the Granville Consultancy in Bromley. "As someone who quit smoking over 30 years ago, I understand the emotions and stresses of

quitting smoking and how hard it can be without any support. Hypnotherapy can really help you overcome these and quit smoking safely, painlessly and for good. With hypnotherapy, there are no bad side effects and there's no need for substitutes such as e-cigarettes, or nicotine replacement patches or gum. Many people can even successfully quit with one hypnotherapy session."

In addition to breaking the smoking habit, Macmillan Cancer Support is also hoping people Go Sober for October by knocking off their drinking of alcohol for a month.

But Professor Kraska says it may not be ideal for all.

"The longer period of time you've been drinking equals a longer period of recovery from the alcohol abuse," she explains. "This means that while campaigns like Go Sober are good for binge drinkers as it reduces the risk of memory loss and the unsafe sex associated with drinking, people who drink everyday may not see the benefits in the space of a month."

When you quit drinking alcohol altogether the health benefits are similar to those of quitting smoking as

you'll have more energy and better nights sleep, but you could also lose weight, and reduce your stress levels.

Professor Kraska says: "Many people drink alcohol in the evenings because they think it will relax them but alcohol actually makes you stressed as it depresses the central nervous system. By cutting out that one glass of wine in the evening, could reduce your stress levels overall."

Macmillan are also asking drinkers to look at other benefits, as well as health, to quitting alcohol. They have stated reasons such as saving money, less time-wasting (no hangover), controlling what you eat, and re-evaluating your relationship with alcohol as other important reasons to get sober.

Last year, 1,408 'Soberheroes' in Kent signed up to take part in the fundraising event, which challenges people to give up drinking alcohol for the month of October and ask loved ones for sponsorship, raising over £64,000 to help fund Macmillan's cancer nurse team.

October may be progressing at pace, but there's still time to join both campaigns...



QUIT: All experts, however, are agreed that stopping tobacco use can have a big benefit to your health



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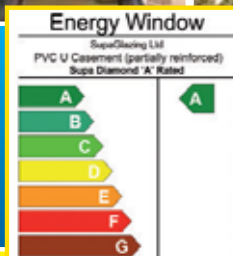
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College vows to complete its rescue mission at city campus

We meet East Kent College principal Graham Razey as he looks to save £3 million in a bid to ensure the survival of Canterbury College. And at the heart of his efforts is a need to ensure skills are taught to serve the local community...

By Chris Britcher

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WHEN the governors of East Kent and Canterbury colleges met late last year to discuss the possible implications of an upcoming government report into further education provision, few can have imagined what lurked just around the corner.

Initially keen to develop closer ties to preempt any possible restructuring as a result of the post-16 education and training review – Kent, typically, is the very last place in the UK to come under the microscope which will be at some stage in 2017 – just four months later it would emerge that Canterbury College was in serious trouble.

"I knew Canterbury had been graded 'requires improvement' for four successive inspections," explains Graham Razey, principal of East Kent College. "You know from that basis there are challenges."

"Our first discussions were in December 2015 just about opportunities to work closer together."

"It wasn't until about March this year when it became clear there were bigger woes in terms of the finances and the two boards looked to accelerate the situation."

"Canterbury's principal was retired after many years in the role and the board needed assistance. We came with a reasonable reputation and the board agreed it could be a good fit. It was agreed we'd see what happens for a year."

"But when we started to dig a little deeper and the full extent emerged which is far more

challenging. It culminated in the need of saving £3m in a three month period."

Sat in the main reception area of Canterbury College's New Dover Road site, Mr Razey looks deceptively calm as he remembers the dawning realisation of the depth of the financial quagmire the college was in.

Actions needed to be taken fast and East Kent College, which, along with the Hadlow Group, has proved to be the star performer in the county's further education sector in recent years.

So, in a manner similar to that in which the college leapt upon its white steed and rode to rescue the Dover and Folkestone campuses of the imploded K College, it set a course for Canterbury.

Unfortunately, a necessity was to carry a sword to cut back on expenditure in a desperate bid to balance the books.

"We're now in the forth stage of reorganisation, which has so far saved £2.2m out of the annual pay roll, and this stage will save another £1 to 1.5m," explains Mr Razey who, as part of the process was installed as interim principal at the college in addition to his EKC duties.

"It's been hard for the staff," he explains. "First there was the realisation of the issue then a new principal who is different in communication style – if we are going to find a solution we need to do it together, share the good, the bad and indifferent times and to get everyone behind a single purpose. They need to know where we are."

When EKC moved in, there were some 850 staff – but the time the axe has been put back in the cupboard, that will have been reduced to around 730-750. So far 29 staff have suf-

WHEN TWO BECAME ONE... AND THEN THREE

FURTHER education has not had the greatest track record in recent years.

First, there was a crisis at South Kent College as financial woes and concerns about its management led it into desperate measures.

Plans for a major campus in the centre of Ashford were scrapped, and there was talk the Folkestone campus may be sold.

Instead, it merged with the apparently powerful West Kent College in Tonbridge. It swept in, took over the Ashford, Dover and Folkestone sites and rebranded the enormous institution as K College in 2010.

By 2014, however, it had crashed and burned in dramatic style. Running up debts of £16m. It was split

again – Hadlow Group picking up the Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford sites, East Kent College Folkestone and Dover.

Canterbury College meanwhile, spent big but, it would seem, a little freely. Now, East Kent College is mounting a rescue mission. So far, at least, it appears to be working.

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EFFORT: Graham Razey is acting as interim principal at Canterbury in addition to his role across the three East Kent College campuses

ferred compulsory redundancy and that figure will "top 50" by the time it is completed.

In addition vacancies are not being filled and some staff have accepted voluntary severance packages.

Underperforming courses have been cut –

among them all A-Level provision – and it is anticipated there will be a reduction in the number of students over the coming years – although not to any significant degree.

With more than 4,000 students it is the single biggest further education college in the south

east – although it is overshadowed in the cathedral city by the wealth and relentless building work of its higher education cousins; the likes of Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent.

Yet while its campus may require a brief stroll

beyond the city walls, it is certainly no less impressive. New buildings – part of a colossal £140m redevelopment package over the last 10 year, dominate and there is no denying it is a modern, fit for purpose facility. It also has a Swale outpost – in Sheerness on Sheppey.

But its financial woes are considerable.

While East Kent College, which has grown from its Broadstairs campus to now encompass the former South Kent College – and then K College – campuses in Folkestone and Dover, says the agreement with Canterbury currently stops well short of a merger, no option is off the table going forward.

Explains Mr Razey: "What we are doing is using experience of working across a group of colleges to the benefit of Canterbury and Sheppey. It's not a merger, it is a partnership with a memorandum of understanding.

"We have learned as a team what makes an efficient delivery across multiple sites. I think we are using that best practice. That could make you feel like it's a merger, but there are still two boards, two management teams and we're clear to be that way for both parties.

"What the future will hold, let's see. The colleges are seeing huge benefits from working closely together.

"I think it's highly unlikely Canterbury will be a standalone company again. I can see a partnership arrangement in whatever guise that it in the future. Everything from maybe some shared posts to the possibility of a full merger is an option on the table."

East Kent College's continued growth has not been by luck alone – although the college's chief admits it has played a part.

In 2012, two years after Mr Razey became principal, the Broadstairs campus rebranded from Thanet College to East Kent College.

So was the expansion planned from the outset?

"Some of it was opportunity, some of it was planned," he admits. "We knew at Thanet, before we became East Kent, that we needed to

Continued on page 16

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grow to have a resilient business plan for the future so we'd look at opportunities. We didn't think those opportunities would come in the way they have – it was more looking at perhaps moving into pre-16 education – maybe a free school – or taking over a private training provider, or go into more commercial outlets. We were looking at our whole business plans.

"We knew then as we were a single site provider in Broadstairs, that things were going to get tougher as a consequence of austerity. We had to look further field.

"Did we know K College would implode? No. Did we think Canterbury College would be in this position? No. But we were looking and exploring ideas and concepts for growth.

"As a £15m turnover college, times were going to get tougher. We just had the foresight to be flexible enough to say let's look at opportunities."

Among the first of its ambitious projects of growth was the Yarrow Hotel which saw the former catering block turned into a fully-operational 365-days-a-year boutique hotel – staffed by a core of industry experts, it provides the opportunity for work experience and apprenticeships in a real world setting while still under the college's auspices.

Since then it has outlets at Sandwich's Discovery Park and, of course, the two sites on the south coast.

Not that it has all been a success.

"I work within the 80-20 rule," Mr Razey explains, "give yourself 20 to be innovative and creative but 80 per cent on the straight and narrow.

"We've done a lot of interesting things in the past which have failed, but as long as it's within the margins, you're not gambling your whole business. For all those that go right, it makes it worthwhile.

"For example, we put a training centre in Manston – nine months later they stopped the airport. Did it cripple the business? No. And



BIG: Canterbury College serves 4,000 students – almost all between the ages of 16 and 18

had the airport taken off, it could have been a great success.

"However, we moved into Discovery Park and that's been a great success – almost the polar opposite. We built a hotel, the first college in the country to do that, and two months in it couldn't have been more successful.

"But there have been things I thought were worth a chance but they failed miserably."

Others, you could argue, have not been so prudent.

K College's dramatic collapse, following fi-

nancial woes at South Kent College before it, prove that even well established colleges and previously well run organisations can take their eye off the ball to catastrophic effect.

"I think there are two things you must get right," says the principal. "First is get the offer right for your local businesses so they engage with you. If they say positive things and there are jobs at the end of it for the young people then you have a fighting chance.

"If you are training for the sake of training then actually young people aren't enthused by

that – there's no end in sight. The work experience opportunities aren't there nor are the jobs.

"So if you can get that bit right then everyone wins and if everyone wins then there is a groundswell of positivity around it.

"That's certainly what we did in Thanet, and then continued that in Folkestone and Dover. Where further education fails is when it doesn't have that relationship.

"The second is making sure what you deliver is current and relevant – the right resources and the right people developing the right culture. So the young people can see it's real.

"Can those teachers walk the walk? Can chefs teaching deliver a world class soufflé? If they can, young people are inspired, if not then it's a challenge. And it's tough getting people to teach technical skills – they have to be great teachers and have the technical proficiency.

"The basic business model itself is simple but hard to do. The whole funding of our system is based on efficient delivery models. So we're paid to deliver a certain number of hours, so deliver them; it works on an average class size of 16, so make sure you have at least 16; and it works on an average number of hours taught per teacher, so make sure that's what they're doing.

"If you get those three things right then the financial model is OK. It's not great. It's on the margins, the government is not funding at a fantastic rate, but neither are the schools or many other parts of the public sector. But it's easy to get those things wrong.

"What I'm passionate about is that there is access to technical education at all avenues of education. Changes have reduced the number of youngsters able to get that.

"If those opportunities aren't there, I'd like to be a part of creating them.

"A good mentor of mine said to me the job in FE is never done and sooner you realise that the better you become.

"There's always more you can do, but you have to control that. But when you see students succeeding you get your reward."

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Tackling drug misuse from deep behind the prison system's walls

SPECIAL REPORT: Tom Pyman reveals a new programme designed to tackle drug abuse in our jails, while Adele Couchman looks at challenges integrating back into society once prisoners are released

PRISONERS across Kent are set to benefit from an improved, integrated substance misuse service from next year, KoS can exclusively reveal.

NHS England Health and Justice South has teamed up with Kent County Council to find a suitably qualified service provider to establish and run a rehabilitation hub within prisons across the county.

The contract, worth £4.3m in total, is set to begin on October 2, 2017, and will last for five years, with the possibility of a two-year extension option at the discretion of the commissioning bodies.

It will replace the agreement that is currently in place and is expected to provide further specialist support for all those assessed as requiring interventions to address drug or alcohol misuse in jails in Maidstone and Rochester, as well as at Cockham Wood in Borstal, East Sutton Park, Maidstone and Elmley, Stanford Hill and Swaleside in Eastchurch, Sheppey.

From April 2013, NHS England became responsible for commissioning of all health services – with the exception of emergency care, ambulance services and out-of-hours services – for people in prisons in England.

Bosses say the introduction of this model will ensure an integrated, recovery-orientated treatment system is available – one that works both within the prison itself and in the wider community upon release.

Drug treatment has been available in prisons for some time, but health chiefs say introducing such an integrated system means there will be an evidence-based, individual-focused system offering consistent treatment.

The scheme also aims to ensure that addicts in prisons have access to the same quality of treatment as those in the community, and thus are given the same chance to rebuild their lives.

The contract, which is out to tender until Wednesday before an early engagement event for interested parties is held the following Monday in Medway, states that

close joint working with other services is imperative to the success of the delivery.

It warns that the successful provider must meet the unique needs of the jails and take into account the needs of the population within those establishments, including short term prisoners, remand prisoners and possibly young adults.

Kent's police and crime commissioner Matthew Scott made a crackdown on substance misuse one of his primary targets prior to election to the £85,000-a-year role in May, and this week threw his weight behind the plans.

The Conservative told KoS: "Addiction causes misery for individuals, their families and for those whose lives it impacts upon – either through crime or anti-social behaviour – and so I've made tackling the misery caused by substance misuse one of my top priorities.

"I'm supporting schemes that tackle substance misuse from a criminal perspective and also schemes which assist those who want to tackle their addiction.

"I've previously given money to Kent County Council and Medway Council to fund drug intervention and rehabilitation programmes and I welcome the news that the NHS and KCC are also investing in tackling drugs and alcohol problems in Kent's prisons.

"If the service proves a success then the cycle of reoffending often linked to drugs and alcohol can be broken."

The use of such substances is rife across the county's prisons, and in a landmark case earlier this year, a London man received the first conviction of its kind in the UK after being found guilty of flying a drone into two Kent prisons in order to smuggle banned items.

Daniel Kelly was sentenced to 14 months in prison after admitting sending tobacco and a psychoactive substance known as spice, into HMP Elmley on April 20 and HMP Swaleside on April 25.

Detective Constable Mark Silk, who investigated the case, had said: "Psychoactive substances and tobacco have an inflated value in prison and this can lead to



DANGER: A key part of rehabilitation is to get prisoners off their drug dependency

offences being committed within. "This places both inmates and prison staff at risk."

Similarly, in a recent report, a prison chief said Swaleside was "starting to stabilise", despite shocking revelations in a report that more than two-thirds of inmates said they felt unsafe at the Sheppey jail.

Inspector Peter Clarke discovered the ease prisoners found in obtaining drugs and alcohol while there was a shortfall of some 200 available work, training or education places for prisoners, with offender management work proving inadequate in supporting men to reduce the risk they posed.

It comes after justice secretary Liz Truss announced at this week's Conservative Party conference plans for hundreds of extra prison officers at some of the country's toughest jails

There have been more than 5,000 attacks on prison staff in the last 12 months nationally – with some institutions forced to dial 999 for the emergency services hundreds of times a year.

A £14m investment will help to

pay for 400 officers, and Ms Truss also outlined her intention to encourage former soldiers to become guards.

"Who better to instill the virtues of discipline?" she said.

"Who better to show what you can achieve in life with courage and integrity? They will help our prison officers lead the change.

"We will be giving more staff more time to directly supervise offenders.

"This one-to-one support, which will be rolled out to every prison, is vital to bringing down levels of violence and reforming offenders.

"All too often [staff] suffer abuse, intimidation and violence, fuelled by the rise in dangerous new psychoactive substances," she said.

"In the last year there were 5,423 attacks on prison officers. That's almost 15 every day.

"So I say to prison staff; you do a vital job – keeping our streets safe, supporting and reforming offenders.

"And I promise you this – I will do everything in my power to protect you."

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Do you give prisoners a chance for a fresh start on the outside?

A STRING of Kent-based charities and organisations that work with prisoners and ex-offenders have said a lack of opportunity and government funding is contributing to the re-offending rate.

The news comes as a damning report was released this week criticising the support and supervision short-term inmates receive when they leave jail.

The chief inspectors of probation and prisons for England and Wales said the government's flagship Through the Gate scheme – which aims to help provide short-sentence prisoners targeted support on release – was failing to find them jobs and housing.

Out of the 86 prisoners whose cases were sampled in detail by inspectors, the report said just one had found accommodation through the scheme – and none had secured employment.

Christopher Stacey, of the Maidstone ex-offenders charity Unlock, believes giving ex-offenders a chance in the job market is the key to reducing the re-offending rate.

He explained: "So many ex-offenders are not reaching their potential because of hurdles and barriers in the way when they come out of prison. The main problems lie in employers

giving you a chance, progressing up the career ladder where there is more checking and vetting, finding insurance, renting a house, getting accepted for a mortgage or even sometimes going on holiday.

"There's an idea that you just serve your sentence but that's not the case."

The charity, which was set up 15 years ago by a group of former prisoners, is supporting the Ban the Box campaign to remove the criminal record tick box from job application forms.

"There is a real problem with how employers treat people with criminal records, and 75 per cent of them admit to discriminating against those who disclose a criminal record," added Mr Stacey.

"Asking on application forms serves no purpose – they are something that someone has done wrong in the past.

"There are probably hundreds of thousands of people in Kent that have a criminal record, and it makes sense for business to employ them.

"These people make good employees, and companies like Greggs and Timpson that recruit ex-offenders have found them to be loyal, reliable and grateful. They are just people asking for a second chance, and by throwing their application form in the bin

companies are essentially marginalising a large proportion of the workforce."

Emily Vermont is the co-founder of Finding Rhythms – a charity that aims to reduce re-offending through

engaging prisoners with music projects. After working with hard-to-reach inmates, including those based in Rochester and Stanford Hill on Sheppey, she believes that cuts to prison funding is harming the future

prospects of offenders.

She explained: "In the last few years, staff numbers have been cut dramatically. Whereas before you would have for example, three guards on a prison landing, now you have one.





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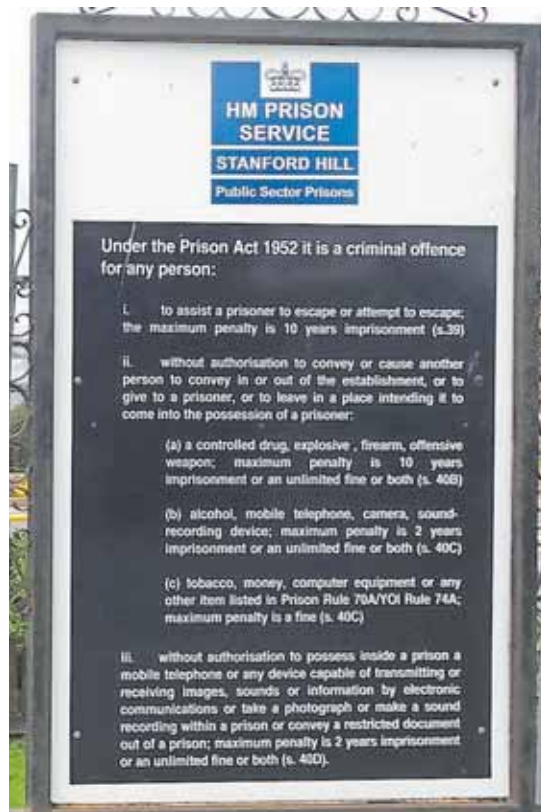
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RELEASE: Prisoners face major challenges once freed

"It's more dangerous for the guards so that means prisoners are locked up for hours at a time, meaning they have less access to things like education, the library and the gym. That has led to boredom,

drug taking and self-harming.

"In my experience, if we want someone to change and stop re-offending we need to change their view of the world."

She added: "Although providing

services like ours goes against people's instincts of prison being prison, we need to have a system that works.

"Over 70,000 people are released from prison every year. It's a waste of

human talent and potential if we let them go back to crime.

"A lot of people who we come across in prisons have fairly low confidence, low computer skills and low literacy and numeracy skills. But so often they are released and completely on their own."

Michelle Elliott, of Phoenix Support, an organisation that helps vulnerable people across Kent and the south east, also believes there is a lack of support available to help offenders get back on track by securing a job or accommodation after jail.

The Maidstone company offers specialist services for ex-offenders with learning disabilities, mental health problems and autism – a demographic Ms Elliott argues does not receive the specialist attention they need from statutory government services.

"There lies a real issue with funding. There is a lack of pathway that connects the training prisoners receive on the inside and what they do after.

"Fortunately, there are organisations like us prepared to engage with prisoners when they leave prison as there are so many who do not have something to come out to."

Reforms set up by the former justice secretary Chris Grayling in 2014 mean all prisoners sentenced to terms of a year or less are now subject to 12 months of supervision on release – an overhaul watchdogs have said is failing.

The revolution saw the creation of the National Probation Service (NPS) to deal with high-risk offenders, while remaining work was out-

sourced to 21 community rehabilitation companies (CRCs).

Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) was taken over by private company Seetec in February 2015.

The service works with low to medium risk offenders and helps short-sentence prisoners find accommodation, employment or training.

Speaking of this week's report which said the public protection work around short-sentence prisoners by private probation companies is "weak", justice minister Sam Gyimah said: "We are already carrying out a comprehensive review of our probation reforms to improve outcomes for offenders and communities. We want to incentivise good resettlement outcomes to cut crime and protect the public.

"Public protection is our top priority and we will not hesitate to take the necessary action to make sure our vital reforms are being delivered to reduce reoffending, cut crime and prevent future victims."

Suki Binning, CEO of Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company, added: "The HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Prisons report covered four CRC areas, which did not include Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

"NOMS (National Offender Management Service) Contract Management are generally positive and complimentary about our own resettlement services for short-term prisoners, and we continue to build on this success throughout the three counties we cover."



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The Daily Telegraph

Pictures: Jack Thornton

Words: Chris Murphy

ORGANISERS of a two-day music festival held within the grounds of Margate's Dreamland park have hailed the event a success.

Visitors braved the inclement weather to watch a host of top names perform – among them a special DJ set by former Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker.

Topping the lineup of the second By the Sea festival were Super Furry Animals, Wild Beasts, Bat for Lashes, Wolf Alice and Mystery Jets.

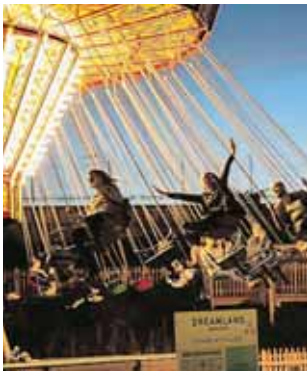
Audiences of around 4,000 turned out over the two days. They watched the Pulp star spin the discs in front of the dodgems, other acts perform in the roller disco area, and the unveiling of a new venue on the revived site.

Now the organisers are confident, at least at this stage, that the event will return next year.

Rebecca Ellis, events and programming director at Dreamland Margate, said: "Thousands of people attended the festival which also hailed the arrival of the recently refurbished Hall By The Sea as Dreamland's new events space."

"Its opening marked part of phase two of the Dreamland project and it delivered triumphantly during its first major event."

"The atmosphere was incredible and the content and quality of all the acts performing shows the potential for the space as a live music venue."



The festival was a joint effort between Dreamland management, a record company, and an independent online music magazine.



DJ: Jarvis Cocker was at the festival

Ms Ellis added: "The people behind By The Sea, appreciate the site as a unique location and the response from both gig goers and artists reflected that. It generated visitors to the area, and local accommodation was full. Our aim is to continue to grow Dreamland's off season events business to bring not just visitors to Dreamland, but to Margate way beyond summer."



SUCCESS: Organisers say it hopes the festival will return again in 2017

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Bad Blood film 'like dark mirror'

Broadstairs victim of contaminated blood scandal attends first UK screening of major documentary

VICTIMS sat alongside campaigners, politicians and screenwriters to watch the UK premiere in London recently of a documentary examining the contaminated blood scandal.

KoS has long campaigned for justice for those who found themselves infected with blood contaminated with the likes of HIV and hepatitis C which they had been administered by the NHS during the 1970s and 1980s.

Many of the thousands infected were haemophiliacs – whose blood does not clot normally and needed treatments to combat it. Some 2,500 of them died as a direct result.

And it was the son of one victim, whose father contracted HIV and then AIDS as a result of contaminated blood who was behind organising the first UK screening for Bad Blood: A Cautionary Tale at the ICA in London.

More than 150 people gathered to watch the film which narrates the history of haemophilia treatments and the creation of Factor VIII. It used blood sourced from donors without proper checks in place. Thus blood was taken from US prisoners and drug addicts to keep pace with demand; meaning many were infected.

Following the screening, Lord Owen, who was former health minister, explained to the audience he had pushed for the UK to become self-suf-

ficient in blood supplies but that he was ultimately undermined and the problem allowed to continue.

He also revealed ministerial papers from the time and his fears of contamination have been destroyed.

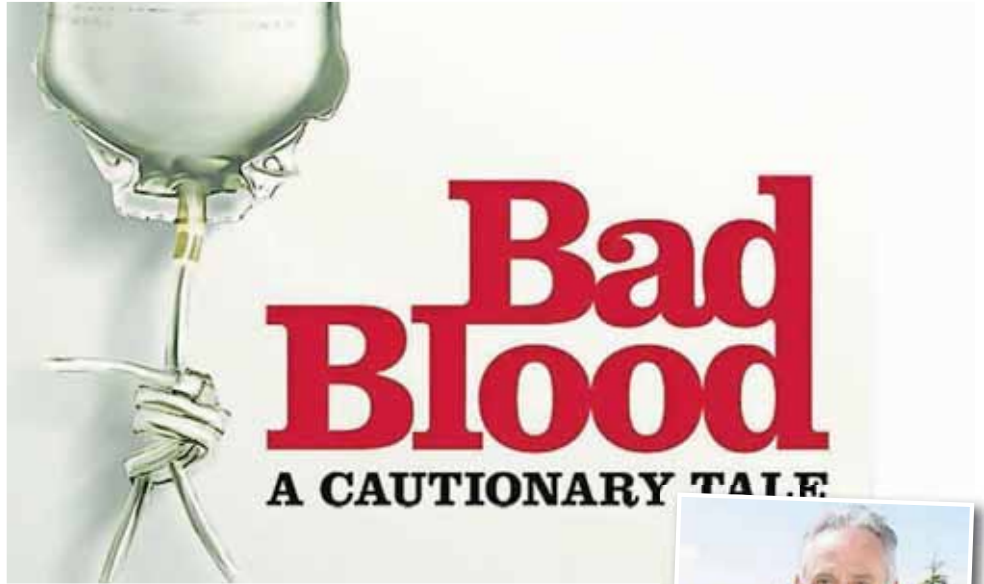
He urged campaigners to continue to press for a better compensation deal after the government revealed it was restructuring payments – but still failing to give long-time victims the lump sum they feel they deserve.

Steve Dymond, 60, from Broadstairs, is a haemophiliac who contracted hepatitis C after taking Factor VIII. He was at the screening. He said: "It was like staring into the dark abyss of my own life, tainted by contaminated blood, a journey into the very heart of darkness."

"It was like staring into a dark mirror it's impossible to turn away from. Sickening and heartbreaking in equal measure, but a potent motivating force to continue to seek truth, justice and decent compensation and see liability acknowledged by the bodies responsible for this scandal."

"It is a story which should never have happened."

Earlier this week, a doctor who worked at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, London, at the height of the contaminated blood scandal in the 1980s has admitted he knew blood products given to patients were infected with the deadly HIV virus.



SCREENING: The documentary was co-written by Marilyn Ness and Sheila Curran Bernard and produced and directed by Marilyn Ness. Victim Steve Dymond, right, was at the event in London to watch it.

Dr Edward Tuddenham said the Royal Free continued to use Factor VIII even after the risks were known but said that there was not a sufficient supply of UK blood to treat.

He said: "We had a choice was it bleed to death or be damaged by a bleed, or was it take the clearly increasing risk of what we knew by then was a deadly disease."



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pumpkin speed bumps and 'flying' slowly through the graveyard. Musical entertainment comes in the form of choir practice singing along with the spooky song 'the 12 days of Halloween'. And so much more besides.

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- A. Maidstone
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Stoke Rochford Hall, Lincolnshire

Join us for a traditional English Christmas or New Year break at Stoke Rochford Hall in the heart of the East Midlands. Situated in peaceful, rolling countryside in rural Lincolnshire, near Grantham, Stoke Rochford Hall is a magnificent Grade 1-listed Victorian mansion which has recently been returned to its former glory thanks to a £12 million three-year restoration project overseen by English Heritage.



Originally built in the 1840s as a private residence, today the Hall is a comfortable hotel while retaining its original heritage and charm. Despite being 175 years old, the Hall's facilities are definitely 21st century with an upgraded, complimentary wifi service available in the Mansion, Stable Courtyard and Woodland Lodge rooms, restaurant and the leisure club.

Stoke Rochford is centrally located in the East Midlands, six miles south of Grantham, a quarter mile from the A1 and under 75 minutes from London Kings Cross.

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All accommodation included with these breaks is located in the Stable Courtyard and Woodland Lodge annexe, located in the grounds adjacent to the mansion.



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The new Honeycombs

The Ultimate 60s Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast
18 Nov, 2016 • Quote: XP11-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield for a Fab Festive Party - for over 40s only - to get you in the mood for Christmas. With free drinks every night and non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening, this party is sure to be a blast. This years line-up includes: The Searchers, Union Gap, The New Honeycombs, The Cufflinks PLUS a tribute to Dusty Springfield.

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The Cufflinks



UNION GAP



Seaside 60s Sounds in West Sussex

Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing
31 March, 2017 • Quote: WG3-KOS

Join us in Worthing for an exclusive Party Weekend and enjoy £1 drinks and a 60s music tribute act each night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

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Final exhibition for global artist

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

DOZENS of paintings by a Sevenoaks artist who generated a fanbase across the globe are to go on display at a posthumous exhibition next week.

Ray Campbell Smith died a week before his 100th birthday earlier this year, having created countless works of art, many inspired by the Kent countryside.

Now the family he left behind are looking to commemorate his talents one last time with an exhibition of more than 50 paintings kicking off at St Julians Club on Thursday, where his work will be available to buy, with profits going to children's charity Barnardo's, as per his wishes.

Anna Hearn, 42, is one of Mr Smith's three grandchildren and, along with husband Tim, has helped organise the event.

"Growing up he was always painting," she told KoS.

"But he was a teacher and he was always keen to incorporate his grandchildren in it.

"We weren't allowed to touch his work but he'd set us up with a smaller board, show us exactly what to do and he'd turn a childish scribble into a masterpiece with a couple of strokes."

Almost entirely self-taught, Mr Smith was sketching and doodling

even when he was stuck in the trenches during the Second World War, sending his family dozens of letters depicting the battlefield landscape and caricatures of colonels and captains.

But it wasn't until he retired that he started to develop his gift further and begin to share it with the wider world.

His paintings have been published as limited edition prints and greetings cards for clients such as the National Trust and he began writing books, of which he produced more than a dozen before his death in January.

Mr Smith, who grew up in Bromley, also presented instructional videos, allowing him to help not just his immediate family, but budding painters everywhere.

"He had books published in Russian and Chinese but I think it was his videos that gained him a lot of recognition," Mrs Hearn added.

"He had a wonderful following, there was even an art club in Japan who used to write, saying they were taking it in turns to read and watch his work, and they sent him a kimono, which was funny.

"And then he'd take the time to individually write back to them all, which I thought was really sweet."

Mr Smith's appeal was clearly global, but for him, his county roots were perhaps closest to his heart.

"He and granny loved Sevenoaks, that's where they really settled, and



LEGACY: The family of Ray Campbell Smith (inset), who died this year, are putting his work on display one last time

he would spend entire afternoons walking around, finding areas he could sketch," his granddaughter recalled.

"I'd be driving him around and he'd yell 'stop!' and I'd think I'd run over something, but he just wanted to sketch a landscape he'd seen.

"He was fascinated by a lot of areas

but the Weald of Kent was definitely his favourite."

Mr Smith was still painting well into his 90s, and it was only in his final year, where his family said he was getting tired and lonely following the death of his wife, that he began to slow down.

"What we'd really love is people to

buy some of his work to remember him," Mrs Hearn said.

"Some of my friends have got them on their walls, and because I talk about him all the time, they feel like they know him, there's a piece of him in the house, and it's a lovely legacy."

The exhibition runs from Thursday until November 24.

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THEATRICAL: Rachel Stanley as The Wicked Queen, Ceri Dupree as Dame Dolly Diamond, and Joe Pasquale as Muddles

Dartford presents Snow White as Christmas panto

Panto regular Joe Pasquale is delighted to be returning to the north Kent venue

REGULARS to the Christmas pantomime scene, Joe Pasquale, Ceri Dupree, and Rachel Stanley return to Dartford for this year's production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

Mr Pasquale has continued to delight audiences with his live-stand up tours, and panto presence for the past 30 years.

Along the way he's voiced characters for Hollywood movies Garfield, Horton Hears A Who!, and The Muppets' 25th anniversary show, and now he's taking on the comedic role of Muddles the court jester at Dartford's Orchard's panto for 2016.

Speaking to KoS, Mr Pasquale tells all about his love for panto and why he's delighted to return to Dartford.

"I've worked for Qdos Production

Company for 28 years and so each year they'll ask "do you want to go to this theatre?" and I'll say yes or no. This year they gave me the opportunity to come to Dartford so I said yes," comments Mr Pasquale.

"It's a lovely theatre and I've been working with Dartford Orchard for 20 odd years, so it's nice to be able to come back again."

However, having been in the business for so long, the comedian has never starred in a production of Snow White before.

"I've never done Snow White before but I'm looking forward to it," he says. "Basically for my character though, each year it's the same character in different costumes. Panto has to follow a pattern in it's storytelling for kids to know it."

Mr Pasquale elaborates: "A lot of the stories are from Disney so if you look at any Disney film, the charac-

ters are always the same, whether it's an owl on someone's shoulder or a parrot. There's always that comedic character."

The actor claims his character develops and changes from show to show, saying: "it's quite organic. It depends on what show you go to, if you've got an afternoon show with lots of kids, it'll be different to an evening show with lots of adults. A lot of characters stick religiously to the script but for me, I have a lot of chance to play around with it. But you don't know what you're going to do until you get out there."

Having worked with some of his co-stars before, Mr Pasquale has a lot of admiration for them.

"I've worked with Ceri Dupree (Dame Dolly Diamond) for around eight years now, which is great. He, and Rachel (Stanley, who plays The Wicked Queen), are fantastic. Ceri

has around 20 costumes for a two and a half hour show. The clothes he puts on, it's like a magic trick, it's all built around him, it's like scaffolding. But he is amazing to watch, he's like a force of nature when he's out there on stage."

When asked what he'd like the audience to get out of their panto experience, the comedian adds: "Personally, I want them to laugh. For kids it's a chance for them to see something live rather than on a screen."

"I think it's important that they become a theatre-goer at a young age. If they like the theatre at 5-7 years old then they potentially become a theatre-goer all their life which will then keep the industry alive."

To book seats for this year's pantomime, which opens on December 10, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call 01322 220000.

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PRESENTABLE divorced lady, young 60, many interests, animal lover, seeks outgoing, cheerful, honest, smart looking man, for cultural times. Text only Mailbox: 5576629

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

WENDY 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLMT gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424339

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status, call, see what happens. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424339

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 422363

GENUINE lady, 67, slim, GSOH, caring, honest, active, likes most things in life, days out, countryside, animals, long walks, visiting interesting places, cooking and holidays. WLMT a caring, honest male with GSOH, 67-73, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423289

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424339

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

HI I'm Angie, attractive petite mid 50s lady. I'm a very very active lady, with lots of interests. WLMT chap with GSOH, looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424339

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424331

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box 424045

WIDOW, 62, short, looking for friendship at present, interested? Ha ha go to phone to find out more! Call Jan. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424195

50YRS, old attractive lady, Sheila, caring honest, seeks discreet gent. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424699

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA. I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 423035

RETIRED lady, an outgoing person, enjoys life, likes meals out, holidays, WLMT someone to share interests with, and quality time. Text only Mailbox: 5552642

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curly lady. Independent with no ties seeks "normal" chap for mutual pleasure. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 424385

LESLEY, 66, retired beauty therapist, blonde hair, blue eyes, size 14, likes going out, travelling, holidays, arts, looking for a nice guy, 57-67, would be great to get a reply. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424147

DANNI 34yrs black married lady looking for no strings fun with white man, any age. Box: 4064145

SINGLE lady, 65, blonde, quiet nature, likes the outdoors, picnics, living, WLMT single gentleman for companionship, and possible romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423411

SUSIE, 42yrs loves life, educated, brunette, own home, works to hard and now wants some fun. If you are a kind gent 30+ then text me for a chat. Box: 4187170

WIDOW, 70s, brown hair and eyes, likes walking, pub lunches, places of interest, good company and lots more, seeking a kind genuine male, a n/s, 70-80. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423359

DIANNA, petite blonde lady, 38yrs, divorced, no kids, wants to spice up her life with new male friends, 35+, might lead to more who knows but no strings. ACA. Box: 4027026

PAT, petite blonde lady, GSOH, young looking for her age, seeks genuine gent any age with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422393

KIM, 50, lovely kind, 5ft 6, brown eyes, dark curly hair, curly figure seeks nice genuine guy for LTR, same age as me. Text only Mailbox: 5512493

RITA, seeks a genuine male for friendship, days out, she's very friendly, genuine and social, give her a call ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422403

MERRY, widow, dark hair, kind and caring, hoping to meet a kind gent for friendship, possibly more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422339

BARBARA, is a caring lady who seeks a man to care for, she will do anything to make you happy. Just give her a call today. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424411

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

GENUINE, GSH, attractive, outgoing professional female, 55. Enjoys keeping fit, socialising and travel, WLMT similar male for relationship. Text only Mailbox: 5453851

MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising. WLMT similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421427

JO, mature understanding worldly Essex lady, seeks generous gent for regular fetish fantasy role-play, discretion assured. Text only Mailbox: 5320299

FEMALE, blue eyes, slim and pretty, from South Africa, young fifties, seeking a sincere, retired gentleman, who resides close to the sea. Text only Mailbox: 5456242

GENUINE single female 49, seeking good-natured, intelligent, polite, single male for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox: 4198603

Men Seeking

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ANDY, tall attractive male, looking for a naughty female, for fun with no strings attached. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424295

JOHN, 42yrs sophisticated business man wanting a lady by his side to spoil and entertain. Looks unimportant but must have a super personality and kind manner. Box: 4086072

MALE, 52, quiet nature, likes coastal walks, cinema, reading, WLMT lady for friendship and maybe romance. East Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424211

RICHARD, 64, n/s, from Kent, medium build, clean shaven, likes classic cars, days out, meals out, boot fairs, most things, would like to meet a lady for company and to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424207

JOHN, 70, widower, lives in Broadstairs, Kent, slim, fit, active, young at heart, kind, caring and loving, likes countryside walks, holidays, days out, theatre, eating out, music, animals, WLMT slim attractive lady, to share interests and nice times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424043

LIVELY old boy, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 y.o. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

GENTLEMAN, 76yrs old, clean-shaven with a good head of hair and a smart dresser, hoping to meet lady for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423645

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372

BRIAN, 6ft3, fit, bit grey but genuine and kind, looking for a naughty female, for no strings adult fun, if you're interested please get back to me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423483

MALE, 53, 5ft6, single, hardworking, looking for slim/small lady, 40-56. Maidstone, Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423363

OUTGOING male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793

ANDREW, 50, slim to medium build, lives in Ashford/Kent area, WLMT a woman, 40-70, for discreet, n/s, would be great to hear from you so get back to find out more! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423271

GARY, 53, caring, likes snooker, bowls, looking for a nice woman to meet and fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423145

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039

SINGLE late 60s female, n/s, GSOH, likes going out and being active, not fun on my own, seeking single male, 66-70, n/s, with GSOH, to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421433

MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising. WLMT similar aged gentleman with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421429

ORIENTAL lady, honest, caring, loves walking, WLMT a reliable, sincere man for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5443434

FEMALE, young 58, 5ft2, size 14, blonde, bubbly, GSOH, warm, loving, kind and caring, loves music, animals, seaside, looking for that special someone. Text only Mailbox: 4715158

KIND, caring lady of African origin, living in UK for past 20 years, looking for a gentleman who is kind and caring, must have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421041

MALE, widower, n/s, would love to meet buxom friendly lady, up to 70, for friendship at first, interests include all types of music, walking, quizzes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422957

HELLO my name is Paul, 43, 5ft9, from Sittingbourne in Kent, looking for someone to have some fun with and see where it goes! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422905

WRITER, tall, slim, fit, natural dark hair, generous, seeks lady for erotic rendezvous, I will make it worth your while! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422777

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

SUGAR Daddy available! Mature, tall, slim, natural dark hair, seeks lady age unimportant. Not afraid of commitment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418889

PHILLIP, 66, into farming and country life, looking for a loyal, genuine lady, someone I can trust, to go on holidays with and spend time together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422699

TONY, early 60s, 6ft, slim, fit, easy going, looking for no strings fun with a lady, age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422643

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587

CHRIS, from Folkestone, 71, 5ft9, widower, green eyes, lonely, n/s, OHAC, likes gardening, the coast, pubs, dining out, holidays, cruises, days out, WLMT similar lady to share interests, can travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422375

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

TONY black male, 58, 5ft6, med build, n/s, seeking a local mature fun loving female 40/75 in the Chatham/Gillingham area for discreet fun. Text only Mailbox: 5459052

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wine, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

TALL single early 60s male looking for pure hearted lady for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5496781

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

MALE, 54, shyish, looking for fun times with a lady, 60-70, with GSOH, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422431

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

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MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, nice meals out, holidays, WLMT someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422329

COLIN, 56, 6ft, medium build, clean and tidy with a tidy beard, I'm after some TLC with no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422359

HARLOW male, 40, kind, attractive, happy, considerate looking to meet slim female for LTR, children welcome. Text only Mailbox: 5468389

FRIENDLY passionate male, 55, 6ft, medium build, clean, discreet, lots of TLC to offer, seeks female for fun times. Canterbury Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381222



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TERRY, 54, bi curious, looking for mature male, 65+, for first time experience. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424109

SLIM straight guy into CD and role-play, WLMT similar for friendship and fun. Text only Mailbox: 5544057

CD male, into wrestling, looking for CD, bi or gay male, 45-55, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423833

TV/BI CD, seeks feminine male with similar interests for discreet daytime meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406735

BI male, aged 54 seeks similar for friendship and fun. Text only Mailbox: 4623598

Friends

FEMALE seeking genuine straight female for daytrips, out to meet socially for lunch/coffee. Text only to Mailbox No: 4748240

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Award-winning author Hannah releases fifth romance novel

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

KENT-BASED Hannah Fielding's novels are award-winning throughout America, and with exotic locations, action-packed storylines and romantic twists it's not hard to see why.

Ms Fielding's latest novel, *Legacy*, is her fifth novel, and comes third in her *Andalusian Nights* Trilogy. Both the first (*Indiscretion*), and second book (*Masquerade*) in the trilogy have won awards such as 2015 USA Best Book for Romantic Fiction (*Indiscretion*), and gold (*Indiscretion*) and silver (*Masquerade*) medals at the 28th IPBA Benjamin Franklin Awards, which sets her final novel of the trilogy in good stead.

The author's award-winning career didn't begin early on though, as Ms Fielding tells KoS: "I began writing and storytelling quite young as I was fond of fairy stories, but my career took off once I was based in Kent and had brought up my family."

As for the exotic locations in her novels, Ms Fielding informs that



A ROMANTIC: Hannah Fielding's novels always include a romantic plot twist

she's very well travelled and that her international trips are what have inspired her writing.

"I love to travel, most of my inspiration comes from my travels. I grew up in Egypt in a house overlooking the Mediterranean, so of course I'm bilingual," says Ms Fielding. "I visit all of the locations I write about. I tend to know a lot about the places already but I spend a few months in the country

so I can speak to the people and gain more of an in-depth knowledge."

Speaking of her new novel, the writer divulges: "Everything comes together in the end. The protagonist is a half Spanish, half American journalist who travels to Spain to investigate a herbal company. But her boss is very charming and she falls in love with him. It has passion,

romance, and escapism."

Already embarking on her next writing challenge, Ms Fielding asks for those who read her novels to give her feedback and to tell her what you want to read about.

"I want to know what the public wants to read. I want them to feel fulfilled and also sorry it's come to an end," concludes the author.

Legacy came out on September 29 and costs £7.99.

Improvised Jane Austen

AFTER five sell-out Edinburgh Fringe runs improvised comedy show, *Austenatious*, will be coming to Maidstone on October 13.

To book tickets, visit parkwoodtheatres.co.uk



Back to Burt Bacharach

THE music of Burt Bacharach is coming to Gravesend's Woodville Hall on October 21 via the show *Back to Bacharach*.

The evening celebrates the music of the composer and his life.

Tickets are available from the box office via woodville.seatlive.com

Fizz Factor visits Bromley

Thirty-five years since Bucks Fizz won the Eurovision song contest they're coming to Bromley's Churchill Theatre on October 16 with their new tour.

For tickets, visit churchill-theatre.co.uk



The Buddy Holly Story

HAVING completed a successful 25th anniversary worldwide tour, *The Buddy Holly Story* is back in the UK and coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre on October 29.

The story tells the enduring tale of the musical icon's rise to fame.

Tickets via orchardtheatre.co.uk

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What Do I Do Now... Kent?

JOSH Widdicombe is back this autumn and will be visiting Tunbridge Wells, Dartford and Canterbury with his show What Do I Do Now...

To book tickets, visit respective box offices.



Moscow State Circus visits

THE Moscow State Circus returns to the UK with a new show which will stop at Bexley's Danson Park on October 5-9.

The circus' latest production is based on the Russian folklore story of Cvetik-Semicvetik, or "the flower with seven colours". The audience is hosted for the evening by Wizard Wacko.

Costa is Gravesend baddie

ANTHONY Costa, from boy band Blue, will play his first baddie role at this year's panto at Gravesend's Woodville Hall from December 2.

He will play Fleshcreep in Jack and the Beanstalk.



Harley goes acoustic

BACK on the road with his acoustic line-up, Steve Harley is coming to Tunbridge Wells's Assembly Hall on November 2.

After a summer of outdoors shows with the full rock band, Mr Harley returns for a series of intimate shows.

Tickets via assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

Comedian Jupp's new show to visit Margate

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

WELSH comedian and performer Miles Jupp is taking his comedy, as well as his Radio 4

show, on the road and to Margate.

He describes the show, Songs of Freedom, as "a rant about me, you, domestic imprisonment, fatherhood, having to have opinions, hot drinks, the government, bad balance, housing, ill health, the ageing process, navigation and other people's pants".

But Mr Jupp's fans shouldn't despair, nor indeed fret: It's just that the modern world can – in his word – "discombobulate" him.

Take a recent incident at the house he shares with his wife, Rachel, and their five children in the Welsh borders. "I can get angry very, very quickly about inanimate objects, particularly if they don't do what I want them to do," says the comedian.

"We've just had a new boiler put in and I can't operate it. I've read the instructions but it's got this enormous control panel and I don't



understand it, or for that matter why it makes the radiators come on at 3am. The man who installed it has to come back and talk us through it.

"And now we have bought a smart TV and, after not having had a television for eight years, it's all slightly baffling. It's the equivalent of going on a yoga retreat and in the intervening time the industrial revolution has happened. 'What's going on? I don't know how to use a loom....'" he reveals.

He continues: "Of course our seven-year-old understands how the TV works perfectly, but I can't very well go and wake him up at midnight and say, 'We want to watch Peaky Blinders, come and find it for us...'"

If you want to hear more of Mr Jupp's stories of despair, the performer is coming to Margate's Theatre Royal on October 12.

Audience members must be over 16. Tickets cost £17.50. For more details visit, theatroyalmargate.com or call 01843 292795.



FUNNYMAN: Miles Jupp



THEATRICAL: The comedian's show tells of his life's tribulations

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Spice up your life with home-cooked Indian food

Hari Ghota shares her story of how she's earned the title 'executive chef' at Mayfair's Tamarind...

INDIAN cooking is "not about chucking in the chilli and seeing how hot you can get it, it's about the layering of flavours," says Hari Ghotra as she stirs the mouthwatering deep red masala sauce for her Thari Wala Chicken.

Into her cast-iron pot, we've added onions and garlic that have been cooked until they're a dark golden brown, a tin of plum tomatoes, ginger, salt, turmeric, coriander stalks and, chilli.

A self-taught home cook and soon-to-be executive chef at the Soho sister restaurant of Mayfair's Michelin-starred Tamarind, Ghotra is passionate about Indian food and is on a mission to enable everyone to cook a curry from

scratch for themselves.

"It's healthy, wholesome, really flavoursome and you can cook it at home quite easily," she says, when we sit down to a sumptuous feast of samosas, aloo gobi, cumin rice, the chicken curry and red lentil dhal.

Ghotra, who lives in Redhill, Surrey, started out teaching Indian cooking classes at evenings and weekends when she went back to work part-time after having kids.

"I had two small children and a tiny kitchen, so I taught people in their homes, where they felt more comfortable," she says.

The 40-year-old is a shining example of how hard work and tenacity can make your dreams come true. Her parents came to



TEACHER: Hari Ghota teaches Indian cooking

Britain in the Sixties and for them, it was "never an option that food would be a career" for their daughter.

She studied biology and worked as a microbiologist for Unilever, then took a degree in marketing and worked for Tesco, until her husband, seeing how much she enjoyed teaching her cookery classes, bought her the Hari Ghotra domain name, designed a logo and had business cards made for her one Christmas. Her website (www.harighotra.co.uk), full of recipes and videos of Ghotra revealing how to make them, soon caught the attention of the Tamarind Collection and she's spent the last 18 months training at the Mayfair restaurant

under chef Peter Joseph.

She's leading the way for female Indian chefs: "It's a male-dominated environment. I haven't had any bad experiences, they're so respectful, but a lot of women in Indian culture are expected to run the home.

Maybe more British Asian women will be going into that industry now, because it's more accepted."

And Ghotra's an advocate for home-cooked Indian food being "one of the healthiest meals you can have".

"You have your carbs, rice or roti, lentils, a veg dish, a meat or fish dish and some form of yogurt or salad or chutney. I'm really anti fad foods, it drives me insane. Just control the volume and cut out rubbish."

Kent goes Full Monty

THE 2016/17 UK Tour of The Full Monty will be stopping at Dartford's Orchard Theatre and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre in February next year.

The cast will be led by Gary Lucy (Danny Pennant in EastEnders, and Luke Morgan in Hollyoaks) as Gaz.

Tickets can be purchased from respective box offices via orchardtheatre.co.uk, or marlowetheatre.com

Royal Philharmonic

AFTER a sold-out performance of Last Night of the Proms in June, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra returns to Dartford's Orchard Theatre on October 16 for Russian Masters.

The evening's programme includes Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

To book tickets or for more information, visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the ticket Office on 01322 220000.

Max Rhythmn N' Blues

BRITISH rhythm and blues artists will be celebrated in the upcoming Maximum Rhythm N' Blues tour coming to Chatham, Folkestone, Dartford, and Tunbridge Wells this autumn.

The line-up consists of two original Manfred Mann frontmen, Paul Jones and Mike d'Abo, with members Mike Hugg and Tom McGuinness.

For tickets, visit flyingmusicboxoffice.com

An enchanted evening

LEE Mead brings the enchanting 1940s and '50s era to life with haunting melodies and lyrics which are certain to delight his audience in Tunbridge Well's Assembly Hall on October 27.

Enjoy beautiful songs like Some Enchanted Evening from the 1958 film South Pacific and I'll See You In My Dreams from the 1940s film Kitty Foyle.

For tickets, visit assemblbyhalltheatre.co.uk



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CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES 2016



MIX IT UP THIS YEAR AT VINNIE'S BAR & CLUB

PARTY the night away this festive season at Vinnie's Bar & Club in Ashford town centre.

Recently refurbished, Vinnie's Bar is the perfect Christmas party venue.

Christmas party nights will be taking place throughout November and December.

And with two packages to choose from, Vinnie's Bar can cater for all group sizes.

You can party on Monday to Wednesday for £25pp – a price which includes a three-course meal with the option of a traditional Christmas dinner as well as a bottle of wine to share between four.

Alternatively if you are looking to hold your party between Thursday and Saturday, Vinnie's can provide you with a three-course meal, a bottle of wine to share between four and a DJ and Disco afterwards for your evening entertainment.

In addition to your Christmas party, why not cause a stir by also booking one of the fantastic Cocktail Master Classes.

From as little as £20 per person, you can learn and practise how to produce some of the finest cocktails you are ever likely to sample.

The master class includes an introduction to mixology, methods and ingredients, tasting of cocktails produced by our head mixologist, getting behind the bar and producing your own cocktail, and learning layering techniques.

But, perhaps most important, you get to drink the cocktails!

For more details about the parties available and the different options, plus to check the current availability, please call Davina on 01233 661175 at Vinnie's Bar & Club.



BAYPOINT'S PERFECT FESTIVE FACILITIES

CHRISTMAS is the perfect excuse for a party, so why not have a night to remember at BayPoint this Christmas?

Based in Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, BayPoint is a superb venue with the choice of two impressive rooms for your big night out.

Head chef Simon is offering a delicious three course meal, with a choice of starters, mains and desserts.

This, of course, includes the traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Christmas at BayPoint doesn't stop with the food either. On all our party nights we will provide live music and a DJ until midnight so you can dance to your heart's content.

Christmas at BayPoint will run every Friday and Saturday night from December 2 and 3.

It will cost £32 per head which includes deco-

rations and crackers. BayPoint can accommodate any party size from two people up to 150 in its stunning ballroom.

So if you're looking at the perfect place to hold your big office, family or friends Christmas get-together, look no further than BayPoint.

Formerly the Pfizer Social Club, it is conveniently located between Thanet and Sandwich and has free onsite parking for 150 vehicles.

To find out more, get in touch and ensure you get the dates you want for this Christmas.

For details and to book, call 01304 613022 or email enquiries@baypointclub.co.uk

For more information, visit the website www.baypointclub.co.uk.

You can be guaranteed great service and a great night out at Baypoint.



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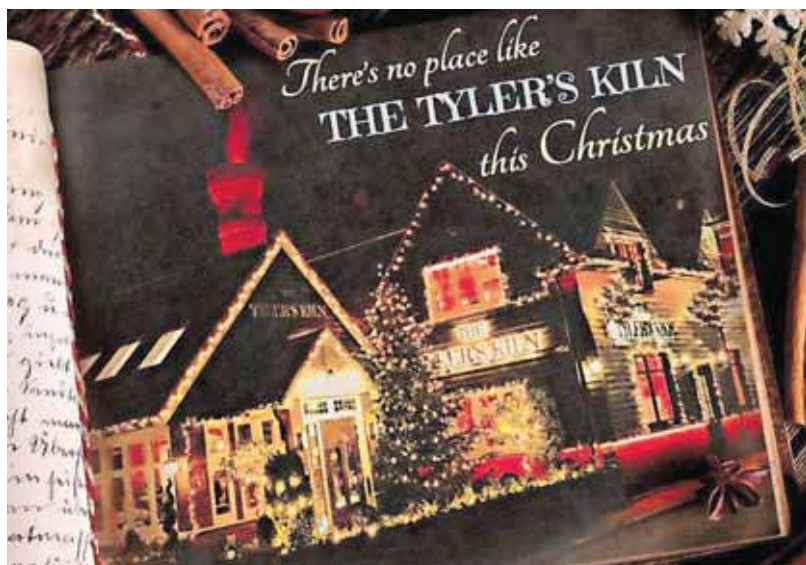
Available dates include: December 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, & 23rd.
We can also accommodate mid-week parties by arrangement.



Call today on **01304 613022**
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CHRISTMAS PARTY VENUES 2016



CELEBRATE IN STYLE AT THE TYLER'S KILN

WHERE better to celebrate the festive season this year than in Canterbury's most Christmas-y pub!

The Tyler's Kiln at Tyler's Hill, promises you a slice of luxury, with guests able to sink into sumptuous leather armchairs surrounding roaring open fires with a warm glass of mulled wine or hot toffee apple vodka.

Enjoy a mouth-watering Christmas meal with all the trimmings in the private dining room, before finishing your evening with a nightcap in the cosy snug.

Its Christmas menu will be available for download from its website in October so you can sit back and enjoy choosing exactly what you'd like to eat to celebrate the special season.

The menu comes into force on November 14. There's no place like The Tyler's Kiln this Christmas, but don't take our word for it - go along and see for yourself.

Bookings are being taken via email to talktous@thetylerskilm.com or by calling on 01227 471912. It's on Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Canterbury, CT2 9NE. Visit, thetylerskilm.co.uk.



DON'T GET IN A PANIC WITH ESCAPE ROOM FUN

LOOKING for something a little different this Christmas?

Then look no further, because The Panic Room in Gravesend will offer you up an experience like no other.

And it's the ideal place to take colleagues, friends or family for a night to remember.

So just what is The Panic Room?

It is an escape room game experience. You and your team get put into one of our many different scenarios where you have to work together to solve the challenges, puzzles and clues to reveal a strange mystery, diffuse a bomb, send a mafia boss to prison, escape a serial killer or uncover a conspiracy.

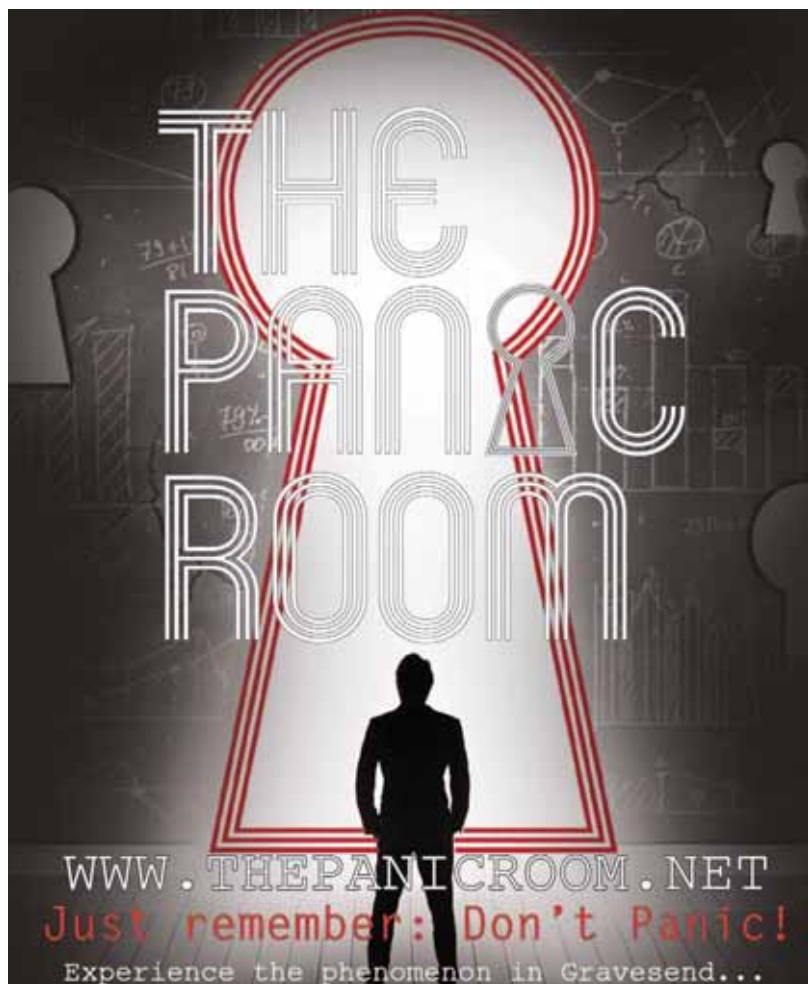
The moment you step in, there are 60 minutes on the clock and that clock starts ticking! Your goal is simple: Get out before you are out of time.

By working as a team you have the best chance of solving the riddles and escaping in time. Ideal for small groups to work together, or for teams to take on one another to crack the codes and emerge victorious.

And those who have been already to The Panic Room they have made their opinions clear. Rated the number one destination for things to do in Kent on TripAdvisor, it has amassed more than 600 five-star reviews across the popular review site, Facebook and Reviews.co.uk.

So are you ready to take on the challenge? Will you solve the clues in time and escape? Just remember... don't panic!

For more information, visit the website at www.thepanicroom.net, email xmas@thepanicroom.net or call 01474 536801.



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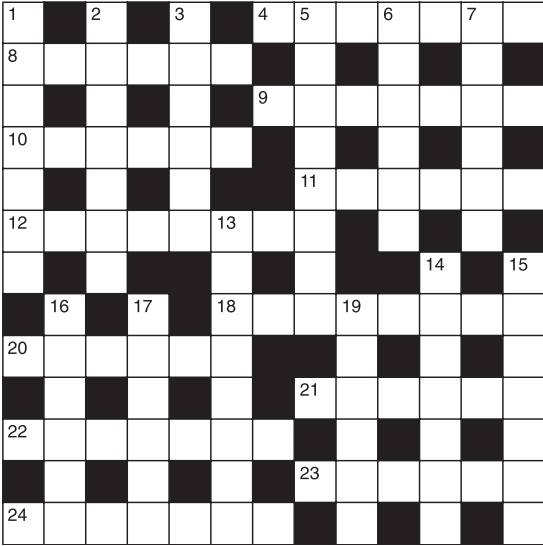
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f o i

PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

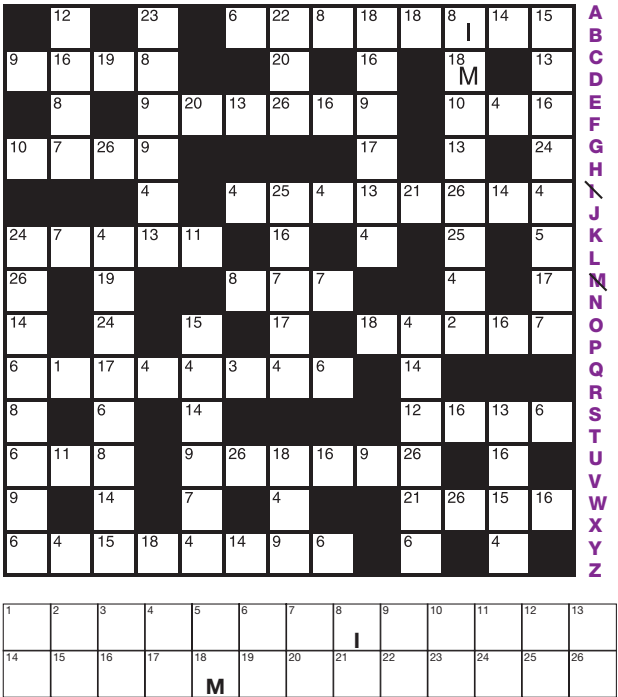
- Across**
- 4. Chic (7)
 - 8. Remember (6)
 - 9. Wave (7)
 - 10. Even if (6)
 - 11. Breathe in (6)
 - 12. Slut (8)
 - 18. Example (8)
 - 20. Claim (6)
- Down**
- 21. Annul (6)
 - 22. Satisfied (7)
 - 23. Abandon (6)
 - 24. Encourage (7)
 - 5. End (8)
 - 6. Hate (6)
 - 7. Proper (6)
 - 13. Proof (8)
 - 14. Performed (7)
 - 15. Full (7)
 - 16. Dedicate (6)
 - 17. Beat (6)
 - 19. Dealer (6)

Cryptic

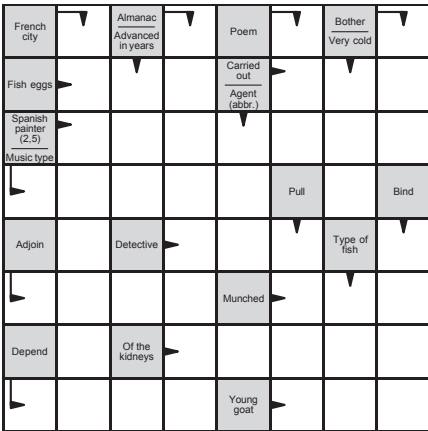
- Across**
- 4. Priest's attendant with clay toe! (7)
 - 8. Wave causes to be sick in front of ship (6)
 - 9. Delusory babyhood? (7)
 - 10. Peru finally reaches the summit with first class backing (6)
 - 11. Have a fight in the freezer? (6)
 - 12. The Spanish notice poor poll (8)
 - 18. Underground transport trial in the lab? (4,4)
 - 20. Pollute a gorge (6)
 - 21. Legitimate, but more than terrible! (6)
 - 22. Investment in the chief city (7)
 - 23. Look again at critical notice (6)
 - 24. Bides one's time, we hear, with heavy measures (7)
- Down**
- 1. Recanted about rude jab (7)
 - 2. Flower proved to be a bad mistake (7)
 - 3. Vote is for old Russian council (6)
 - 5. Study money penalties within limits (8)
 - 6. Doesn't touch the foliage (6)
 - 7. Not coy about being powerful businessman (6)
 - 13. Train, etc., to work on each other (8)
 - 14. Amusements mostly one-sided (7)
 - 15. What a bull can contribute in the blacksmith's shop? (7)
 - 16. 19 habitually calm (6)
 - 17. Concealment of a thrashing (6)
 - 19. Made fun of a steed (6)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

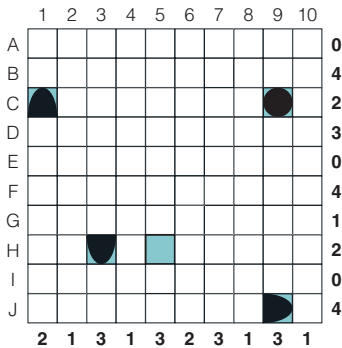


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

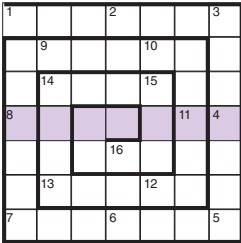
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



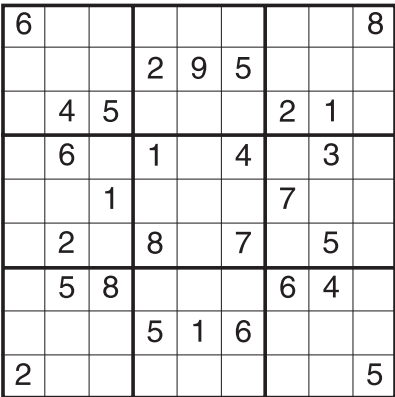
Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

- 1. Slender
- 2. Bill of fare
- 3. Forearm bone
- 4. Assistant
- 5. Give off
- 6. Care for
- 7. Prima donna
- 8. Summit
- 9. Direction
- 10. Extended journey
- 11. Corrode
- 12. Ruffian
- 13. Festive occasion
- 14. Atmosphere
- 15. Cain's brother
- 16. Racing toboggan

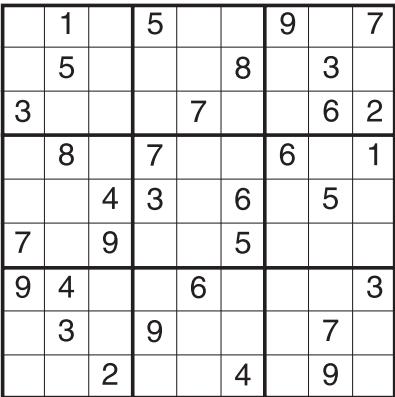
Keyword clue: A branch of maths

SUDOKU

Hard



Easy



Solutions

Double Crossword

Cryptic

Across

- 4. Chic (7)
- 8. Remember (6)
- 9. Wave (7)
- 10. Even if (6)
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- 16. Dedicate (6)
- 17. Beat (6)
- 19. Dealer (6)

Code Word

Across

- 4. Priest's attendant with clay toe! (7)
- 8. Wave causes to be sick in front of ship (6)
- 9. Delusory babyhood? (7)
- 10. Peru finally reaches the summit with first class backing (6)
- 11. Have a fight in the freezer? (6)
- 12. The Spanish notice poor poll (8)
- 18. Underground transport trial in the lab? (4,4)
- 20. Pollute a gorge (6)
- 21. Legitimate, but more than terrible! (6)
- 22. Investment in the chief city (7)
- 23. Look again at critical notice (6)
- 24. Bides one's time, we hear, with heavy measures (7)

Down

- 1. Recanted about rude jab (7)
- 2. Flower proved to be a bad mistake (7)
- 3. Vote is for old Russian council (6)
- 5. Study money penalties within limits (8)
- 6. Doesn't touch the foliage (6)
- 7. Not coy about being powerful businessman (6)
- 13. Train, etc., to work on each other (8)
- 14. Amusements mostly one-sided (7)
- 15. What a bull can contribute in the blacksmith's shop? (7)
- 16. 19 habitually calm (6)
- 17. Concealment of a thrashing (6)
- 19. Made fun of a steed (6)

Arrowword

French city: 1. Paris
Almanac: 2. Year
Poem: 3. Verse
Bother: 4. Annoy
Fish eggs: 5. Caviar
Carried out: 6. Executed
Agent (abbr.): 7. AG
Spanish painter (2,5): 8. Velazquez
Music type: 9. Jazz
Pull: 10. Tug
Bind: 11. Tie
Adjoin: 12. Join
Detective: 13. Sleuth
Type of fish: 14. Trout
Depend: 15. Rely
Of the kidneys: 16. Urine
Young goat: 17. Kid

Battleships

THE FLEET

- 1 x Battleship
- 2 x Cruiser
- 3 x Destroyer
- 4 x Submarine

Word Spiral

Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Slender
2. Bill of fare
3. Forearm bone
4. Assistant
5. Give off
6. Care for
7. Prima donna
8. Summit
9. Direction
10. Extended journey
11. Corrode
12. Ruffian
13. Festive occasion
14. Atmosphere
15. Cain's brother
16. Racing toboggan

Keyword clue: A branch of maths

Sudoku - Hard

Sudoku - Easy

Arrowword

French city: 1. Paris
Almanac: 2. Year
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Keyword clue: A branch of maths

6 great reasons to visit Dartmoor this autumn

Dartmoor National Park is the largest and wildest area of open country in southern England with picture perfect villages, great woodland, high granite tors and rolling moorland. Here are six more reasons to visit...

1. Witches and hauntings
Discover all things spooky on a *Ghosts, myths and legends of Devon tour*. Thrill seekers can visit some of the most haunted places in England such as the ruin of a 15th century castle, an 800-year-old inn and a spine-tingling church with links to the Hound of the Baskervilles.

2. Rare species
The moor is home to over 50 per cent of Britain's globally threatened species including: greater horseshoe bat, blue ground beetle, bog hoverfly, dormouse and rare butterflies.

3. Cream Teas
No trip to Devon is complete without a cream tea, such as at the The Ilsington Country House Hotel. Freshly baked scones are served with clotted cream and jam.

On a cold day take tea in front of the roaring log burner.

4. Picnics
Dartmoor is essentially one large picnic spot. Favourite places include: Meldon, where picnickers can soak up breath-taking 360-degree views and Haytor; the most iconic tor on Dartmoor.

5. Sherlock Holmes
The rolling hills and rocky outcrops of the park have provided inspiration for many works of fiction, most famously Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes mystery, Hound of the Baskervilles. Discover the intriguing story behind the book on a tour given by a descendant of one of the characters.

6. Prison
Perfect for fans of the grizzly and macabre, Dartmoor Prison

museum in Princetown features memorabilia and weapons for controlling inmates.

There are also stories of prisoner escapes, including that of the Mad Axeman, Frank Mitchell, who was never recaptured.

One place to stay is the Ilsington Hotel in the heart of Dartmoor. The property has a gorgeous spa with hydrotherapy pool, sauna and steam room – the ideal place to relax after an active day on the moor. There is also an indoor swimming pool, gym and three treatment rooms and one of the most acclaimed restaurants in South Devon. Stays from £125 per person include breakfast and use of spa.

■ Visit www.ilsington.co.uk or www.dartmoor.gov.uk for more info.



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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Give us back our Manston!

GIVEN that the majority of the people of Thanet voted in the elections last year for the airport to be reopened, it is not surprising that the response to the RiverOak informal consultation was overwhelmingly positive [KoS, last week].

The majority of Thanet councillors and our two MPs and the surrounding councils all support the airport.

It is about time the asset strippers of Stone Hill Park relinquish control and allow the airport to be reopened with a minimum of delay so that we can get this national asset back into productive use and with it the jobs and communication links that Thanet so desperately needs.

Cliff Tamplin,
 Birchington

Lib Dems: The parrot sketch

ALAN Bullion in KoS letters recently (25.09) heralds a resurgence in the fortunes of the Lib Dems; I say he's trying to breathe life into a corpse.

John Ward Moorhouse,
 Tunbridge Wells

Time to fight off urban sprawl

LAST Friday, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council opened public consultation on its proposed local plan – the document that will guide development in the borough for the next 15 years.

Kent, indeed the whole of south-east England, faces huge development pressures, particularly for housing.

The government-imposed call for sites exercise has identified over 250 sites across the borough, put forward by landowners and developers. The council's initial assessment is that around half of these could be developed for housing and other uses.

In my own area, the developers of Kings Hill are proposing a massive expansion (possibly 3,000 to 4,000 houses) north across farmlands and orchards that threatens the setting of West Malling and East Malling, including three conservation areas and Manor Country Park.

Developing a disused airfield for housing and employment made sense but Kings Hill should not be allowed

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Granger versus Duff ...ready for round 10

RAY Duff still wriggles like a fish on a hook, portraying Great Britain as a weak nation in desperate need of crumbs from the EU table; he thinks we're not good enough [KoS letters, ad infinitum].

Since the Brexit vote, the British economy has made a mockery of all the hysterical scaremongering from the Remain supporters.

We have seen growth expanding and potential business with the rest of the world 10 times that with the crumbling European Union.

The Remoaners, like Mr Duff, just can't stand the fact that Britain is good enough.

It did well before the EU and it'll do well after the EU shackles which are pulling other European Union countries down, creating up to 50 per cent youth unemployment, regulating them into inaction and causing horrendous problems with mass immigration, have finally been

melted down.

Ministers have made it quite clear, that June's European Union referendum wasn't a trial run to test the water, of the British public, it wasn't purely advisory, wasn't to be the best of three, but was a demonstration of the will of the people, also known as democracy, to be acted on and carried through.

Ray Duff should move to Calais, Cologne, or Greece, then he can get the full effect of the chaos, terror, economic ruin and despair from mass unemployment, his beloved EU, run by Jean-Claude Juncker, has caused.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler's [KoS letters, last week] support is much appreciated and others who really care about this country.

The quislings would be better of stopping 'tilting at windmills' and just buying a one way ticket to their fake nirvana.

Phil Granger
 West Malling

to expand over greenfield land simply because it is already there.

This expansion is almost certainly contrary to assurances given to local people at the time. Given the type and price of houses likely to be built, it's also unlikely to contribute much to solving local housing problems!

My understanding is that borough planners are proposing that the Greenbelt be extended east to the line of the West Malling bypass – this is welcome but inadequate. Protection should be given to all the land between East Malling, West Malling and Larkfield to prevent these

communities joining up in one large urban sprawl.

The Green Party is not opposed to house building. However, we argue that planning should not be based on crude and self-fulfilling population projections; development should be directed away from the south-east; brownfield and smaller infill sites should be prioritised; the ability of transport and other infrastructure to cope must be considered; and any development should include a substantial proportion of genuinely affordable homes – for sale and rent.

I urge people who care about our

countryside, nature, rural lanes and footpaths, as well as the housing needs of local communities, to scrutinise these proposals and make your views known. You can be sure that developers and other interested parties will be doing just that.

Richard Byatt,
 Tonbridge & Malling Green Party

MP firing blanks over drone firm

WHILE your article says Craig Mackinlay [South Thanet MP] 'shot down' peace campaigners' claims, unfortunately he actually avoided answering the claims altogether (KoS last week).

The East Kent Campaign Against the Arms Trade provided evidence to show that Instro Precision does make products with drone applications – contrary to Mr Mackinlay's public statement on the matter.

He hasn't explained whether the company misled him on this when he toured its factory, and he hasn't retracted his statement – in fact he's avoided these very serious issues altogether in the response he gave your paper, and bizarrely redoubled his support for a company that appears to be clumsily trying to disguise the purpose of its products.

Instead, Mr Mackinlay tries to distract by blustering that local peace activists are 'hung up' on drones. Not really. We're talking about them at the moment because of these extraordinary and grave circumstances; an MP issuing a misleading statement on behalf of a local arms dealer that is deleting its drone-related dealings from the internet.

What we're really 'hung up' on is that Instro sells various arms components (not just drone parts) to repugnant regimes that attack civilians – Saudi Arabia, Israel, Turkey, Egypt – and it wants to expand this business here in peaceful Kent.

Patrick Foy,
 By email

Equality? What if it good for?

WHY do individuals get so uptight about grammar schools?

Mixed ability and other new ideas have certainly not improved the behaviour of today's teenagers; respect and courtesy are a thing of the past.

Is everyone dreaming of a utopia of equality? It just can't happen whatever system we use, thank goodness!

GF Biggs,
 by email

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Spitfire refuels at Headcorn Airfield
by **Alan Ford** from **Sissinghurst**

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Ateca adds to SEAT's glamour

BRAND UPDATE: Spanish marque's first ever SUV impresses with its glamorous looks and by being solidly made and good to drive...

WITH less than 13,000 employees, SEAT is the smallest of the large brands within the giant VW group.

But its first ever SUV, the new Ateca, cues a marketing drive by the Spanish marque to glamorize its image by association with its HQ city of Barcelona, and further boost a growing market share, through widening its range; it will stage three model launches over the next 18 months, including an all-new Ibiza supermini next spring and a facelift to the Leon family hatch and estate.

Both models are pillars of SEAT's sales, and it's likely the Ateca will become a third. It deserves to, being well-priced from £17,990, solidly made and good to drive.

Whisper it, but it's a major threat to sister brand VW's relatively expensive and closely related Tiguan too, though SEAT is understandably not quoting that car as a rival, preferring instead to benchmark its new star against the Nissan Qashqai, Renault Kadjar, Kia Sportage, Hyundai Tucson and other leading junior SUVs/crossovers.

Styling follows the current SEAT look: sharp lines and creases and distinctive LED running lights already seen on the elegant Leon. It looks and feels upmarket inside with plenty of space for five and a larger boot than the ubiquitous



Qashqai, though slightly reduced in 4x4 versions.

Named after a village in Spain's Zaragoza province, there is a version to suit all, the most surprising being those featuring the entry level powertrain: a 115bhp 1.0-litre turbocharged petrol unit. The three-cylinder can be noisy under pressure, but it's surprisingly lively

(0-62mph in 11 seconds) thanks to the Ateca's light yet strong body.

On balance though, the 149bhp (150PS) 1.4 turbocharged petrol engine is the pick of the line-up with its sporty refinement and decent fuel consumption (53.3mpg combined), though diesel options will no doubt attract company car user choosers.



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Yeti seen less rarely than expected

Skoda's distinctive SUV has been spotted on UK roads more than the Czech marque ever expected at launch time, **writes Steve Loader...**

SKODA'S ambitions for the Yeti were modest when it launched the car in 2009. SUVs might be flavour of the month now, but they had fallen out of favour with consumers during the recession, so Skoda said it would be happy with 3,000 sales in its first full year.

Contrast that now with the brand's recent expansion of production in its Czech homeland after a best ever 'year of the Yeti', with 13,306 UK sales.

This has been helped by the metamorphosis of two Yetis after a major facelift in 2014: the rugged looking Outdoor – no mean performer in tricky conditions when equipped with 4x4 – and the standard Yeti decked out more for city life.

Both start from £17,210 and we've tested both recently and found it's really down to personal taste, which you go for: both offer good value, sound engineering and good interiors, with Skoda going that extra yard to ensure everything falls to hand nicely, plus plenty of neat and clever stowage space.

That boxy shape, moderated by some nice styling touches such as the curved lower rear corner of the front door glass, is practical for both



passenger and boot/load space.

The three rear seats are mounted slightly higher, stadium style – which kids like when looking out – and can be slid forward or back, depending on how you wish to balance passenger leg room and boot capacity.

The seat backs also recline individually or fold down completely, and can even be removed to create an impressive cargo space.

There are roof rails as standard too, for those leading an active lifestyle.

As our test car proved, you don't



have to spend out on power either: the entry-level 110bhp 1.2-litre turbocharged petrol engine delivers decent acceleration low down and is mated to a crisp six-speed manual 'box to take the pain out of motorway cruising.

It's still reasonably refined under

Skoda Yeti Monte Carlo 1.2 TSI

Price:	from £19,700
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Nissan Qashqai

pressure and will save you a lot against even the cheapest diesel option (from £18,555).

It's not so bad on fuel either with an official combined of at least 51.4mpg.

Out on the road, the Yeti delivers a good balance in driving appeal: it's not tautly sprung with pin sharp handling, but most buyers will be happy with its reasonably flat cornering stance for such a high-riding car, and it rides well too.

What is perhaps most surprising is that it is also a relatively compact car – no wonder it has become such a favourite as an urban runabout.

And if you like the SUV style then the test car might be of interest as it was one of Skoda's Monte Carlo special edition models in red with a black roof – these cut a real dash.



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for: (1) **Extension of hours for the sale of alcohol** Monday - Sunday 06:00am - 23:00 Bank Holidays / Christmas Day / New Year's Eve / New Year Day 06:00am - 23:00

(2) **Change of layout of premises for the premises** (c) Standons Newsagents - situated at (d) 103 Sun Lane Gravesend Kent DA12 2HU

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at: www.gravesham.gov.uk/licensing or at Licensing Section, Regulatory Services, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend Kent DA12 1AU Tel.01474 33 71 83

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 28/10/2016 6

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER, PUBLIC SAFETY, THE PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Gregory Wayne Chapman trading as Carveyance Elite of 87 Dee Way, Romford, Essex RM1 4UU is applying for a licence to use 8 Rushenden Road, Queenborough, Kent ME11 5HB as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Triple Nine Transport Ltd of Unit Z, Transfesa Road, Paddock wood Distribution Centre, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6UU is applying for a new operating license as follows; To Keep 3 vehicles at the operating centre Unit Z, Transfesa Road, Paddock Wood distribution centre, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6UU.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Kent given 'unfair hand' – Kennedy

Chairman unhappy county wasn't considered for promotion

By KoS reporter

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT chairman George Kennedy claims the England and Wales Cricket Board has dealt his county "an unfair hand" by declining to consider them for promotion in place of Durham.

The ECB agreed a bail-out for financially-stricken Durham, on a series of conditions including relegation from Division One of the County Championship.

In a statement on Monday, the ECB also announced Hampshire will instead remain in the top flight despite finishing below Durham in the second relegation position.

The governing body explained Hampshire's retention of Division One status is "in accordance with ECB's competition regulations".

But Kennedy believes it is "embarrassing", "plumb wrong" and "against the spirit of cricket" to have chosen Hampshire "arbitrarily" as the beneficiaries of Durham's demotion.

He is therefore planning to take up an invitation to meet ECB chairman Colin Graves over the coming days, to state the county's case as this summer's runners-up in Division Two of the County Championship.

"We've been dealt an unfair hand, in my opinion, I think there should at least be an appeal and it should be heard by somebody other than the straightforward board at ECB," the chairman said this week.

"There were five people not allowed to vote on something that really has a fundamental effect on the future of Kent.



FRUSTRATED: Kent chairman George Kennedy

Pictures: ADY KERRY

"On this occasion, I think they went against the spirit of cricket in not even discussing this with Kent.

"I just want them to understand how we feel, to simply tell Hampshire that they're okay, and ignore the rest of us, that's not really on at all."

An ECB spokesman issued no response to any of Kennedy's specific

remarks other than to spell out the premise on which Hampshire remain in Division One.

"The last thing I want to do is end up in court with an organisation like the ECB," Kennedy added.

"But I'm hoping they won't be totally intransigent and at least they'll listen to our arguments."

Wainwright looking to end season on a high

SIDCUP superbike star Josh Wainwright has pledged to bounce back for the Brands Hatch season finale after a weekend of setbacks.

The 26-year-old finished 28th and 26th at the Assen TT last weekend after his BMW S1000RR was hit by engine problems.

"After lap two we had a big end go in the engine and that was the engine completely kaput," he told KoS.

"We didn't have a spare engine so we borrowed one off another team and then we had another problem with the engine which caused it to break down after another two laps.

"We sorted the problem and got two laps and then I got T-Boned by



READY: Photo by CAMIPIX

another rider. We were always doing a chasing game. The best race of the day we tried our best and went as fast as we could considering

the lack of time we had."

Derbyshire-based Leon Haslam won both of the weekend's races in his Kawasaki ZX-10R, cutting Shane Byrne's MCE British Superbike championship lead to 17 points.

The stage is now set for a dramatic season finale at Brands Hatch next weekend – and Wainwright is determined to end on a high note.

"The team has totally sorted the bike out for the next round. In Holland, you are limited to what you could take. It was a new engine and we did not expect it to go bang but we were just caught out. You either have luck or no luck.

"I am really looking forward to Brands. It is quite close to my house – 15 minutes away – and I can't wait to get out there and do what I do best."

Sport **Shorts**

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Bolton clash selected for TV as duo join Gills

GILLINGHAM are back on the box later this year when they face Bolton Wanderers in front of the Sky Sports cameras just before Christmas.

The EFL have this week confirmed the Gills' League One clash at the Macron Stadium will now kick off at 7.45pm on Monday, December 12, having been pushed back from Saturday, December 10.

It will be Justin Edinburgh's side's third live televised match of the season after a league clash with Sheffield United at Priestfield was also broadcast by Sky Sports, while the club's EFL Cup fixture away to Tottenham Hotspur last month was aired across Europe, Asia and North America.

Elsewhere this week, the club completed the signings of Chris Herd and Frank Nouble.

Both boasting Premier League experience, defensive midfielder Herd is a product of Aston Villa's academy and went on to make 42 appearances, while striker Nouble began his career at Chelsea, signing for them as an under-12.



BOSS: Justin Edinburgh

County rivals paired together in cup draw



DESTINATION: The FA Cup Final will be held at Wembley

TONBRIDGE Angels and Dartford have been paired against each other in an intriguing Kent derby thrown up by the fourth qualifying round draw of the FA Cup.

Tony Burman's side will travel to Longmead Stadium next weekend as favourites, but the Angels will look to spring an upset in front of their fans.

With National League sides entering the competition, there were

a whole host of county clubs featuring in Monday's draw.

Welling United will entertain Whitehawk, Bromley travel to Braintree, Faversham will host St Albans if they get past their replay with Egham, Margate will face Harrow if they overcome Hastings, Maidstone are at home to Billericay, Dover travel to Burgess Hill and Ebbsfleet visit Merstham.

Fleet finish with full-back Fish

EBBSFLEET United have confirmed they have released defender Matt Fish from his contract.

The 27-year-old departs Stonebridge Road by mutual consent having racked up 58 appearances for Daryl McMahon's side since joining from Gillingham in January 2015, becoming part of the furniture at right-back.

Fish also featured for Dover

Athletic and Portsmouth.

In 2016/17, he has only appeared twice and found first-team opportunities more limited since his last appearance at Concord Rangers in August.

A spokesperson said: "The club wishes Matt every success in his future career and would like to place on record our thanks for his service to the Fleet over the past 18 months."

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